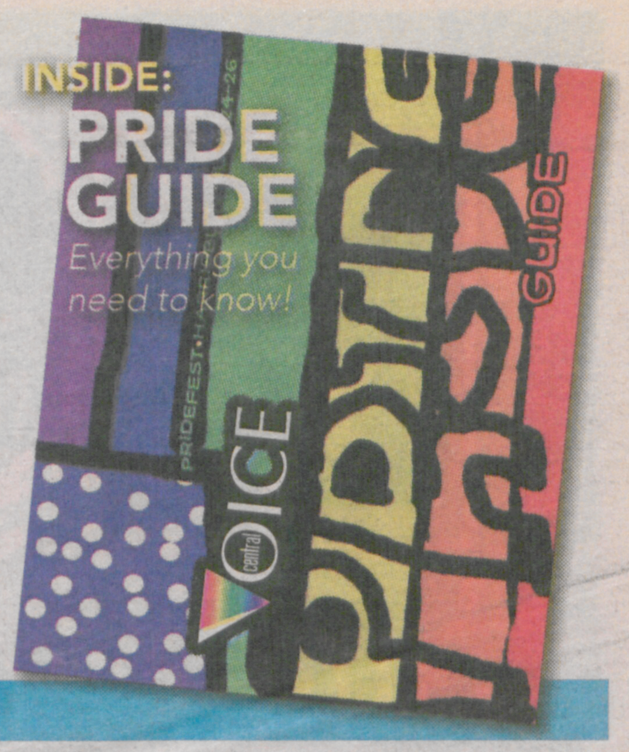
central VOICE

FREE

JULY/AUGUST 2009



Find a parade and get in front of it

With a theme this year of *"Your Rights, Our Rights, Human Rights,"* the Pride Festival of Central PA also features the Stonewall Vets.

The Pride Festival promotes awareness of and showcases organizations available to the lgbt and our Straight Allies in the community, provides a safe environment for people of the lgbt and Straight Allies to celebrate their diversity. The event supports local economic growth by partnering with the community and attracting individuals to south central Pennsylvania. Please be sure to visit the website: www.harrisburgpride.org for up to the minute details concerning the locations, hours, and admission prices of all these events. Look for Central Voice's PrideGuide inside this issue for a complete schedule and maps of the weekend's events.

New and expanded this year:

Pride's Got Talent - Pride Festival Mixer II - Fri., June 26, 9 p.m. until Midnight at Brownstone Lounge, 412 Forster St, Harrisburg, PA. Enter the first ever Pride's "Got Talent Open Mic Competition." Patrons of the Brownstone Lounge will choose the best performance. The winner will perform their selection at the Second Stage during Pride Festival. A pre-registration fee of $15 is required and all those who register receive a Pride T-Shirt. Visit www.harrisburgpride.org and click on the events page to download the registration form or call 717-801-1830. Registration deadline is June 14. Patrons will be able to join the Pride Festival of Central PA for an evening of enjoyable entertainment and refreshments and learn how to become involved in this year's exciting weekend of Pride activities. Show your pride by purchasing Pride Souvenirs or Pride T-Shirts. A cover will be charged.

Continued on page 31 >

The bisexual bombshell vows to never walk out on us. But those breasts? They've got a mind of their own.

Going Gaga

By Chris Azzopardi

As if it needed to, a text to Lady Gaga told her she had arrived. As far as her dance-grooves go, she's cha-chinged two hit singles – the gay-loved club jams "Just Dance" and "Poker Face," both top-10 songs. But this message wasn't talking about her tunes. This was about Lady Gaga: Trendsetter.

She was overseas, where she had been for a couple of months before gabbing with us last week, when the text popped up on her cell. It was from her friend (and once-collaborative partner), New York City hard-rock DJ Lady Starlight, who spotted somebody on the subway wearing a black hoodie, tights and square sunglasses.

Sound familiar?

"I was laughing," giggles Gaga, from her Los Angeles apartment, regarding the imitator mimicking her outrageous everything-goes style. And that's not the first (we're talking to you, Christina Aguilera). "I'm not making videos and fashion statements just for myself. It's leading my internal desire – or external, rather – to change things. So I'm quite pleased."

That fuzzy feeling extends to her seemingly infinite won-over gays, who can't seem to go gaga enough over the 22-year-old vixen. Just so you know, it's mutual. "I adore the gay community so much," she says. "My commitment is to continue to play gay clubs no matter how big and suc-

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Freedom Rings at LVC

By Kristen Verdelli
Contributing Writer

Located in Annville, Pennsylvania, Lebanon Valley College confronts the issue of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights head on.

Freedom Rings, an on-campus organization that promotes an alliance between the lgbt and straight populations, strives to obtain support and acceptance for people of all sexual orientations. Every Thursday night, members come together to voice their concerns on campus and explore methods of creating and improving tolerance for their cause, while simultaneously expressing support for each other.

> *"The entire idea is unity"*
> *Freedom Rings Christi Garrison*

"[Freedom Rings] helps to build tolerance and understanding for people who have a different viewpoint than your own," says Freedom Rings president Tom Busteed. "Some people were afraid of the gay community until they realized that one of their best friends is gay. Suddenly, it isn't about 'those people' anymore, but rather someone you love and care for whose life is affected by these major issues," Busteed says."

In their mission to build tolerance and support for the lgbt community, Freedom Rings focuses on creating straight allies. The organization's secretary Christi Garrison and Busteed agree that straight allies are the people who have the most significant opportunities to help develop tolerance and change long-standing

Continued on page 31 >

Matthew Shepard
A look back
see p. 33

The Other Lucas
see p. 17

CLUB XS

FOAM PARTY!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22ND

Enjoy our state of the art dance floor and light show while dancing away to Central PA's BEST dance music.

$5.00 Cover
Drink Specials all night

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WITH YORK REVOLUTION BASEBALL

JULY 15TH & AUGUST 26TH

Each ticket purchased contributes $4.00 to the Black & White Party 2010

Visit www.YorkRevolution.com, then select Fundraising Code Access

Enter "clubxs09" as the group code

Bring in your ticket stub to Club XS after the game for $1.00 off your first drink!

Revolution

black white party

Caring Together

THE AIDS FUND of South Central Pennsylvania

CLUB XS

BOYS OF SUMMER PARTY

Saturday, July 25th

CLUB XS

Continue the Gay Pride celebration at Club XS with DJ Seth Gold and the Boys of Summer Party - Only $5 Cover and drink specials all night!

PRIDE PRO WRESTLING

Gay professional wrestling returns to Club XS! Get more information on show times and ticket prices on our website:

www.clubxsyork.com

FRIDAY, JULY 31ST • BELL 10 PM

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Trend Combines Alternative and Complementary Medicine

Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) use by US adults has increased substantially surveys indicate. By 2005, 81.9% of women in a consecutive survey reported using either a CAM product/therapy or seeing a CAM therapist at some time in their lives as compared with 66.7% in 1998.

Women in 2005 reported that 41% used CAM for treating their breast cancer. The most commonly used products and practitioners for treating breast cancer as reported in 2005 were green tea, vitamin E, flaxseed, vitamin C, massage therapists and dietitians/nutritionists.

CAM use (both self-medication with products and visits to CAM practitioners) increased significantly from 1998 to 2005. Now that more than 80% of all women with breast cancer report using CAM (41% in a specific attempt to manage their breast cancer), CAM use can no longer be regarded as an "alternative" or unusual approach to managing breast cancer, the Harvard Medical School.

Locally, Sharon Muzio RN. BS. NCTMB, is on the cutting edge of integrating the popular therapies. Muzio established AltaView Wellness Center in 2001. "As an RN and massage therapist, I saw the need for a practice where alternative and complementary medicine was made available and affordable for all people seeking this type of service," she says.

When her service first opened, massage therapy was the only service offered. "Since our inception, we've expanded to include, acupuncture and herbal medicine, Hatha, and chair yoga, intuitive and angel readings, Usui Reiki (healing energy), personal development classes, groups and mini-workshops," Muzio says.

The past 15 years has witnessed a trend toward integration of allopathic medicine (Western), and alternative medicine (Eastern). "Western medical doctors are reporting that their patients have added some form of eastern medicine to their medical care plan," Muzio points out. She notes that many patients are adding herbal supplements, Reiki and finding that the integration gives them a better-rounded approach to addressing what ails them," Muzio reports.

Most health care insurance does not cover alternative modalities. Even so, many people are changing their approach to personal health care by stepping outside the box of what health insurance will cover. "They are willing to pay out of pocket for modalities that will improve their lives and prevent future illnesses," Muzio says.

Muzio and her colleague's clients range in age from newborns to octogenarians, and include people from all walks of life. Therapeutic massage is the service's most accessed service. Sabrina Kreps, CMT, has been practicing with Muzio for five years and is accepting new clients. AltaView offers prenatal massage, deep tissue, sports massage. Diem Nguyen, acupuncturist, specializes in family acupuncture, and she has been practicing an integrated approach to acupuncture for several years, offering herbal therapy, Chinese massage, cupping and moxabustion. Info: www.AltaView-Wellness.com

What Every State Employee Should Know

Effective July 1, PA Employee Benefit Trust Fund eligible employees can extend their health benefits to domestic partners (same sex or opposite sex), according to Louis Marven, director of administration and youth programs, LGBT Community Center Coalition.

Benefits include:

Medical (HMO and PPO Only)
Prescription Drug
Dental
Vision
Hearing Aid

Many employers allow employees to extend benefits to cover domestic partners. A majority of Fortune 500 companies, including Chevron, Coca-Cola, Eastman Kodak, Google, Home Depot, AT&T Inc., Nike and The Walt Disney Co. extend such benefits. A dozen significant Pennsylvania companies do so. Among them are Aramark, CIGNA, Comcast, Erie Insurance, Lincoln National, Mellon Financial, PNC Financial Group, Unisys and Rite Aid. Additionally, with this program, Pennsylvania joins 15 states - Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington - in allowing employees to extend health benefits to domestic partners.

To Apply

An employee may certify that another person is their domestic partner if they provide at least three of the following items:

Domestic partnership agreement as recognized by a governmental entity

Deed or lease evidencing common ownership of real property or a common leasehold interest in property

Evidence of joint title to a motor vehicle

Driver's license listing a common address

Proof of joint bank accounts or credit accounts

Proof of designation as a beneficiary for life insurance or retirement benefits or beneficiary designation under a partner's will

Assignment of durable power of attorney

To apply for domestic partner benefits, employees should contact their human resource office and complete:

Employee Enrollment/Change Form (PEBTF-2)

PEBTF Domestic Partnership Verification Statement and Application for Health Benefits Form (PEBTF-12)

(Please note that the CDHP will not be available for domestic partnerships because the tax laws governing the associated Health Reimbursement Account will not permit its use in the majority of cases.)

Employees may apply for coverage beginning May 1 for an effective date of July 1, 2009. HR offices will not have the necessary forms prior to May 1, 2009.

Dependent Children

Coverage for domestic partners' dependent children is also available. Children must reside in the household of the employee and domestic partner and documentation is required. Your local human resource office or the PEBTF can answer questions about covering these dependents.

Tax Implications

Health benefits provided to domestic partners are considered taxable income under federal and state laws. Additional information on the tax implications will be provided at enrollment and is posted on PEBTF's website: www.pebtf.org.

Retirement

Employees who qualify for the Retired Employees Health Program (REHP) may continue coverage for domestic partners and dependents upon retirement. REHP benefits include medical and prescription drug only.

Termination of Domestic Partner Coverage

If a partnership ends, the employee must notify their local human resource office within 60 days and must complete:

Employee Enrollment/Change Form (PEBTF-2)

Individual Domestic Partnership Termination Statement Form (PEBTF-13)

At that time, a HIPAA notice and COBRA continuation of coverage notification will be mailed to the former domestic partner so that they may elect COBRA coverage if needed. Employees are responsible for reporting changes in a timely manner and are responsible for any claims incurred when dependents are not eligible for such benefits.

Additional information about domestic partner coverage may be found on the PEBTF website, www.pebtf.org, under News.

Panzee Press Announces Close

In an email statement received May 4 from Bolton Winpenny, C.O.O., Panzee Press announced it would be closing.

"Mike and I have determined we can no longer keep Panzee running; it takes far too much money and time. We greatly appreciate all your contributions and support. Over the last two years, we believe Panzee has made a difference in our corner of the world by helping to unite and give support to the sexual minority community. It's been a lot of fun, the best part was meeting and working with you, all the individuals & groups within the LGBT community. Panzee will always remain deep in my heart as an accomplishment in my life of which I am most proud."

find more community voice
on pages 7, 8, 13, 20, 32

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Central to your life.

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CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GAY AND LESB AN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

publisher's note

Frank Pizzoli

Pride Towards Each Other and Others

When interviewing K. D. Lang for our last cover, she said: "We are not victims. We are leaders." And I got to thinking…

She also explained about her creativity "The listening is where I start." It must be said that as a community – some of my friends argue with me regularly that I cannot use that word to describe lgbt-nation in south central Pennsylvania because we have no real "community" – we always have a list of what others need to do in order to improve their relationship with us. Things like letting us get married, nor firing us for being gay, you know the drill.

Why don't we also have a list of what we need to do with each other? Like actually getting together once in a while to be with each other? I'm not talking about events – Pride, night clubs, benefits. I'm talking about time to listen to one another. Fortunately, we have the emerging LGBT Community Center Coalition. They are poised to offer programs and venues through which folks can gather, talk, relax and discuss a favorite book as Louis Marven discusses in his column this issue.

In 2009, could our own sense of "pride" begin to include how we mix within segments of our own community? Could our sense of pride also better include others who suffer as much, and in many instances more, than we do in our everyday lives? "We can use the experiences of our own oppression to more easily identify with others who are put down, even murdered, like Matthew Shepard, for who they are. We are not the only oppressed group."

Whenever one steps off the PC wagon they open themselves to lots of noise. But I feel strongly that we aren't much of a community in the way we all, myself included, so easily use the word. In short, we don't "come out" for one another. I don't mean coming out of the closet. I mean we don't "show up" to support each others' organizations, endeavors, benefits, whatever.

A colleague devoted to the lgbt and other worthy communities said recently: "There are about 200 people with speaking parts in Harrisburg. The rest are walk-ons." By analogy, we could say – measuring who serves on lgbt boards, committees, benefits, the regular drills – that the region's gay ranks have about 50 people with speaking parts. We need more people to develop "speaking parts" and add their voices to our ongoing quest to continue developing our own environment and to join with the larger community. Buy a ticket to a benefit, show up somewhere to volunteer.

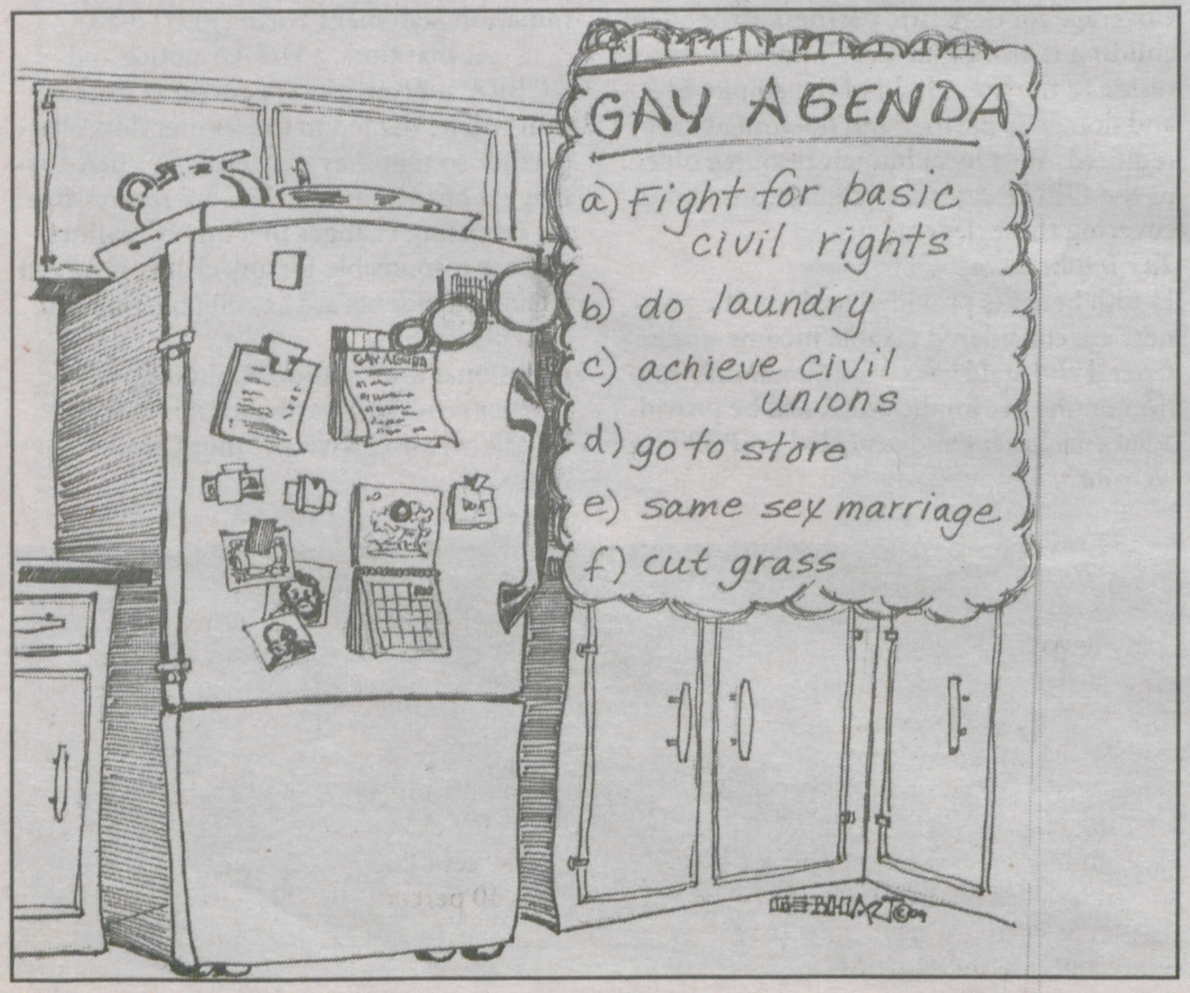
If any readers are interested in stepping up to the plate, email us at posops@aol.com. Let us know what interests you. We'll direct you to a suitable effort.

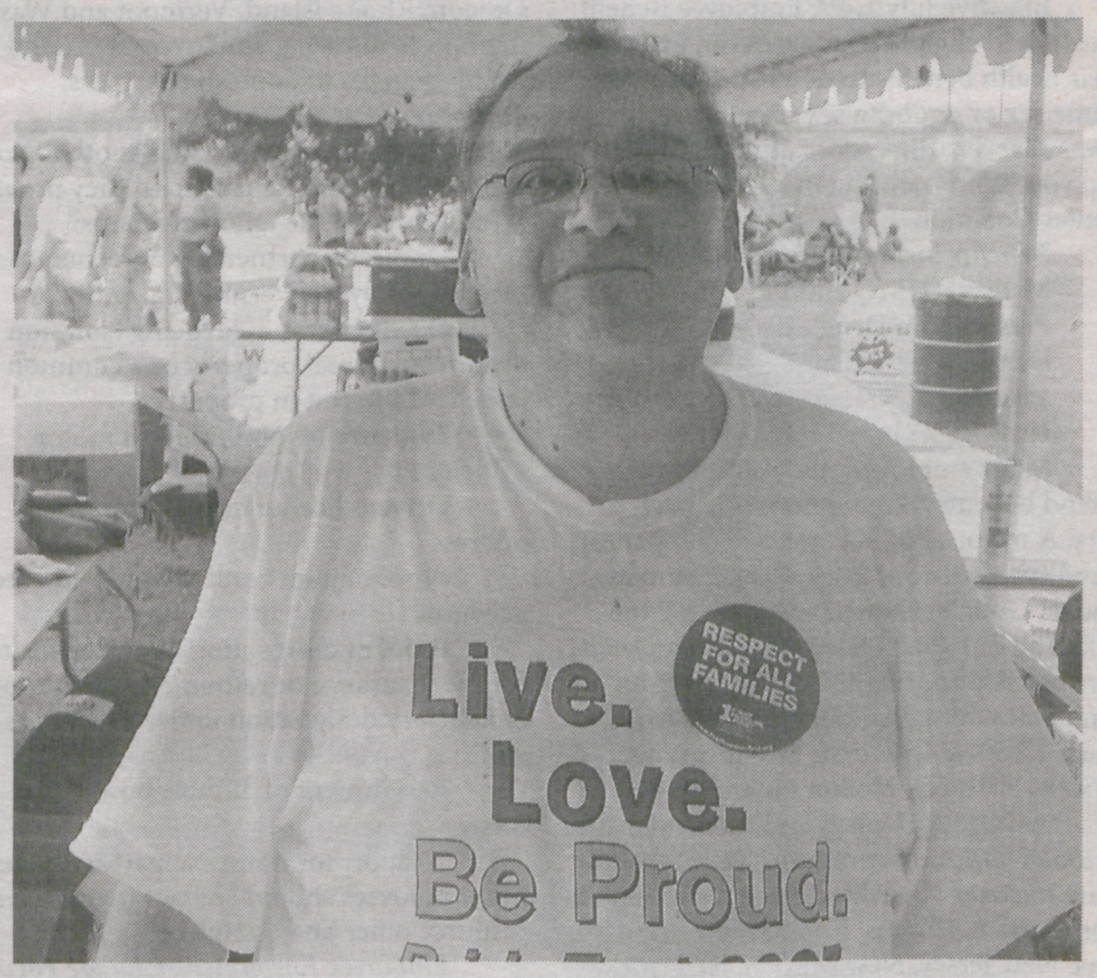
voice box

"Better Off? – I hear Steve Reed tells us over and over that since he's been in office that the city of Harrisburg has seen $4.37 billion in new investments. Well then why aren't we better off? Why are we always on the brink of being broke? Why isn't the tax base better off? Who's putting these numbers together anyway?

Harrisburg Taxpayer

Email your thoughts to Central VOICE: posops@aol.com

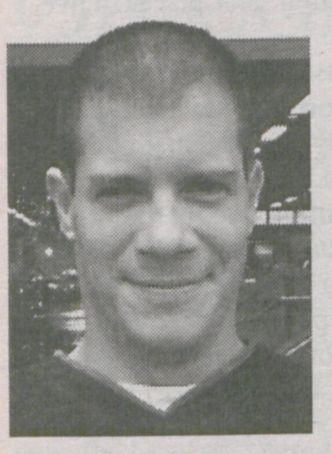




Past Pride Festival Chair David Walker Died June 12

David Walker, 48, chair of Pride Festival of Central PA 2006-2008, died June 12. Shown here in 2007 in a t-shirt with that year's event theme, Walker was held in high regard by legions of people in the region. A service celebrating Walker's life is scheduled for Sun., July 5, 7 p.m., Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit, 2973 Jefferson Street, Harrisburg, PA. His partner, William O' Donnell, and members of the congregation invite the entire community to join them. Look for a special story on Walker in the Sept-Oct issue of Central Voice.

Template for Community Response to a Fool and His Followers



By Chris Tittel, Central Voice Key West Correspondent

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes; but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise. (Proverbs 12:15)

A tall, dark-skinned woman with dreadlocks streaming down her back interrupted the community meeting from the back of the church hall to quote scripture.

Everyone heard her:

The openly gay reverend.

The openly gay police chief.

The openly gay county commissioner.

The openly gay city commissioners.

The caretaker of the synagogue.

The superintendent of schools.

The students representing the special youth alliance.

Everyone applauded her.

And the meeting continued.

The openly gay reverend briefed more than 100 participants at the meeting on the well-known fool and his followers who would enter their peaceful little community on the Friday heading into Memorial Day weekend and try to turn it upside down.

The openly gay police chief confirmed that he had received from the fool and his followers a schedule of demonstration sites – the high school, the synagogue, the naval base and the gateway to the island – as well as a request for police protection.

The openly gay county commissioner laughed at the idea that any group coming to the peaceful little community would think it needed police protection and asked the openly gay police chief if it would be appropriate to send the fool and his followers a bill for the overtime pay that would be due officers assigned to the duty.

The openly gay county commissioner added that too much time and ink had already been wasted on the fool and his followers and that the community's response upon the fool's arrival should be no response.

Many people at the meeting expressed particular concern for the safety – both physical and mental – of the high school students, who would witness the fool and his followers and their angry messages as they are released from class at the end of the day.

One man said a makeshift wall should be put up around the school parking lot to block the students' view.

Several people suggested either scheduling early release or cancelling classes altogether that day.

An adviser to the students representing the special youth alliance recommended distributing T-shirts to all students bearing the words "One Human Family," the adopted motto of the island community that reflects an openness and warmth to anyone who reaches island shores.

A school board member suggested that any student who makes eye contact with the fool and his followers flash an "I Love You" in sign language.

Another man told the school superintendent that this could be a golden opportunity to teach students what it is to be an American, recommending that a special class or assembly on the rights of the fool and his followers to protest and the appropriate response to that protest be held.

Although many people dismissed any kind of prepared response to the fool and his followers as giving the fool and his followers the attention they want so very much, the majority of participants at the meeting ultimately placed their trust in schools officials and their ability to decide the best course of action without interference from the community.

The caretaker of the synagogue told everyone that when he first heard the fool and his followers were coming to his campus, he thought he might bring milk and cookies to the fool and his followers as a show of love. With follow-up that drew a chorus of laughter and a big round of applause, the caretaker of the synagogue said that he and the congregation had ultimately decided merely to cancel the regularly scheduled Friday evening services – which no one attended anyway.

There was more laughter:

❑ One of the openly gay city commissioners jokingly reminded the openly gay police chief that city officials had already cleared the way for purchase of 60 new Tasers.

❑ The other openly gay city commissioner muttered tongue-in-cheek to the openly gay county commissioner that the fool and his followers should be invited to stage their demonstration on the battleship that's scheduled to be sunk off the island to create an artificial reef that same weekend.

❑ In response to concerns that outsiders might want to come to the community and confront the fool and his followers, the openly gay county commissioner suggested press releases be issued stating that the fool and his followers decided not to come to the community and that the community was thankful for but does not require outside help.

The openly gay reverend took a quick poll, asking everyone who believed that the best response to the fool and his followers is no response to raise their hands.

Almost every hand in the room went up.

Chris Tittel is Key West correspondent for Central Voice. He deliberately withheld the names of the "fool and his followers" – a well-known reverend from Kansas who was recently banned from the United Kingdom for his ability to incite violent response to his angry rhetoric – in keeping with the community-wide decision to deny the fool and his followers the publicity that they so desperately seek. He deliberately withheld the names of the members of the community because this could be any US municipality facing hate. By press time, Key West High School had planned a Phelps-a-Thon, asking people to make donations benefiting the school's Gay/Straight Alliance.

Cool As Us
May-June is a very good looking issue. I wish Harrisburg were as cool as Central Voice.

Lewis

Events
Thanks for Central Voice. I am back in central Pennsylvania after 20 years in Kentucky and for the first time in 20 years I am single and looking for friends and events in my community. Thanks to your newspaper I can become a functioning member of the lgbt community. The bar scene is just not cutting it for me. It makes me feel like an old fogie at 50 when everyone else is 20-something. Is there anyway to get Central Voice delivered to my home? *(Yes, there is. Central Voice can be delivered on a subscription basis to your home. Call Press And Journal, 944-4628.)*

Doug

Ning
Glad we joined Central Voice's Ning (thecentralvoice.ning.com) and found all these great videos and news. Thanks for all your hard work.

Wayne Noss

Beautifully Written
I just wanted to let you know that I picked up a copy of the current issue of Central Voice (May-June 09), and I couldn't be happier with how it turned out. The story was beautifully written. I really can't thank you enough. I have just received an email from somebody who read the article and wishes to read the book.

Tim Ward, local author

Lookin' Good
Central Voice looks great. Can't wait for the July-August issue!

Yvonne R

Senate Budget Threatens Crime Prevention Programs

Chairman's Corner – May 2009

There is an old saying that goes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." That is certainly true when it comes to programs designed – and statistically proven – to reduce and prevent youth violence and delinquency and make communities safer.

However, these efforts are in danger as the result of a budget bill passed by the Pennsylvania Senate that would slash state funding for several successful programs.

For more than a decade, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency has helped communities implement evidence-based initiatives to encourage healthy youth development– all with the ultimate goal of reducing and preventing delinquency and youth violence. These programs include Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, Functional Family Therapy and LifeSkills Training.

In 2008, a comprehensive study, conducted by the Prevention Research Center at Penn State, found that these programs significantly reduced crime and violence in communities and represented a $317 million potential cost savings for the state in reduced future corrections costs, reduced burdens on welfare and other social services, decreased costs in drug and mental health treatment, and increased employment and tax revenues.

These effective, evidence-based programs provide mentoring opportunities for at-risk youth, school-based and family building initiatives, substance abuse prevention efforts and individual and family therapy for juvenile offenders.

One example of such a program is LifeSkills Training, implemented in the State College Area School District in Centre County. By teaching middle school students about resisting peer pressure, this program promotes positive and healthy decision-making skills, and provides youth with critical thinking and goal setting strategies. Follow up studies in that district showed a 28 percent decrease in underage alcohol use, a 40 percent reduction in tobacco use,

continued on page 6

lesbian notions

Political IQ: The 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Wimp Out

Obama Can Suspend the Ban Today, But Refuses to Act

By Diane Silver

Aaron Belkin, Nathaniel Frank, Gregory Herek, Elizabeth Hillman, Diane Mazur and Bridget Wilson took Barack Obama's last excuse away. The two law professors, one attorney and assorted other academics penned a study telling Obama exactly how he can end the ban on gays serving openly in the military.

Step one? Immediately suspend all investigations, separation proceedings and other personnel actions under the policy commonly known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." The six authors even drafted an executive order Obama can use to do it.

Issued by the Palm Center at the University of California in Santa Barbara, the study moves the DADT debate to a new level. Before now, politicians and pundits (myself included) argued that Obama didn't have the power to unilaterally suspend the policy. A law passed by Congress and signed by President Bill Clinton stood in Obama's way, or at least that's what we thought.

Obama even used that excuse when he replied to a letter 2nd Lt. Sandy Tsao sent to him, explaining why she came out to her superiors. In a hand-written note, Obama said he is "committed to changing our current policy," but added "it will take some time to complete (partly because it needs Congressional action)."

The Palm Center's squad of experts say Obama is flat-out wrong. Existing laws governing the president's power over military personnel give Obama the authority to temporarily suspend the policy.

A bill permanently overturning DADT would still have to pass Congress, but our overstretched military wouldn't be losing needed soldiers like Tsao, or Lt. Dan Choi, an Iraq veteran and Arab linguist, who is being discharged after coming out on TV.

The Palm Center theorizes that DADT is caught in a Washington game of cover-your-backside. Many members of Congress worry that supporting repeal would cost them votes, so Congress is trying to shift responsibility to the Pentagon.

"Senior insiders in the Pentagon are unwilling to tackle 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' because they view the issue as a 'hot potato' or 'career killer' so they seek to shift responsibilities back to Congress," the study notes.

The White House is ducking the issue and wishing "the impetus for change to appear to come from the Pentagon," the study says.

Legal experts disagree every day, so it is possible that the White House is following a different legal interpretation than that proposed by the Palm Center six. (Examine their arguments for yourself at www.palmcenter.org.)

But the authors are to be applauded for shifting the DADT debate and for raising the most important question of all for our president: How can you, in good conscience, not even make the attempt to stop discharges under a policy you say you oppose?

Obama came into office with the support of most LGBT voters. We knocked on doors and opened our wallets to him. Except for his ridiculous insistence on backing civil unions over marriage equality, Obama promised he would fight for us. Repeal the Defense of Marriage Act? Absolutely! Full rights and benefits for same-couples? You bet! Push for a transgender inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act? On the agenda!

These days it seems as if Obama has embraced what author and blogger Andrew Sullivan calls "the fierce urgency of whenever." Almost nothing, in fact, is being done to end the legal tragedies LGBT Americans suffer every day. The administration won't even speak up for us. Officials run for rhetorical cover every time our issues are raised.

I love Sullivan's line because it captures the adolescent disregard we're getting from Obama. We expect a sulky "whenever," when we insist that our teenaged children do their chores. No sane parent allows a child to get away with that kind of defiance, but we also know that if we enforce the rules, our children will someday grow out of such selfishness.

We expect more from our presidents. We expect them to understand that lives are at stake. People like Choi and Tsao only want to serve their country with honor, but now they can't. Meanwhile, the military units that need their skills don't have them.

What worries me is that Obama is showing signs that he may not comprehend something the much younger Tsao appears to understand well. In her letter to the president, Tsao explained that she informed her chain of command of her sexual orientation because she believes she has to live with integrity.

It's worth repeating what she wrote, not just here, but in letters, e-mails and phone calls to The White House and Congress. What's integrity? Tsao wrote: "It means choosing to do the right thing no matter what the consequences may be."

Diane Silver is a former newspaper reporter and magazine editor, whose work has appeared in The Progressive, Salon.com, Ms, and other national publications. She can be reached care of this publication or at PoliticalIQ@qsyndicate.com.

Senate Budget con't'd

and a 32 percent decrease in youths reporting depressive symptoms.

In addition, schools in Philadelphia and Bucks counties have adopted the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, a school-wide effort designed to create safer learning environments by adopting rules and consequences against bullying and other aggressive behaviors. Schools in those counties report large reductions in bullying incidents, an increase in staff responses to bullying, and a clearer understanding of the impacts of bullying throughout the community.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program in McKean, Clarion and Bradford counties has led to a reduction in underage drug and alcohol use, an increase in school attendance and performance, and better relationships among youth with family and friends.

Based on the data and research showing the programs' effectiveness, in 2008, PCCD partnered with the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare's Office of Children, Youth and Families to create the Resource Center for Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Programs and Practices. Additional partners include the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, the state departments of Education and Health, and many community-based and residential service providers. They, like PCCD, believe in the effectiveness of these prevention programs, aimed at reducing youth violence and delinquency and ultimately making our communities safer.

your voice

Related prevention efforts within PCCD include Communities That Care. CTC works on the grass roots level, encouraging communities to work together and identify risk factors among youth that lead to violence, teen pregnancy, school drop out and substance abuse. These communities then determine the best strategies to reduce those risk factors. Since the mid-1990s, PCCD has funded more than 100 communities to adopt and engage in this process of evidence-based prevention planning. Research has continued to demonstrate that communities which adopt the CTC model have a lower prevalence of risk factors among youth and lower rates of youth substance abuse and delinquency, compared to similar communities that are not using the CTC model. These programs work in tandem with Pennsylvania Weed and Seed. Weed and Seed helps communities rid their neighborhoods of crime and blight, and restore their towns and neighborhoods in becoming safer places to live, work and play.

However, these effective, proven programs could soon come to an end. The state Senate recently passed Senate Bill 850, which would cut $4.7 million for evidence-based prevention and intervention programs, $3 million for research-based violence prevention programs, and $3.13 million in state support for Weed and Seed.

This action could be detrimental on a number of fronts: fewer support services available to help at-risk youth and their families, an alarming increase in problem and risk behaviors among youth, and ultimately, more youth entering an already stressed criminal justice system.

At a time when our nation is experiencing challenging economic times, these actions will hurt all of us in the end.

Communities across Pennsylvania are seeing the results of these evidence-based prevention initiatives. To eliminate them would eventually mean higher prison costs, more cities and towns would be forced to deal with increased acts violence and delinquency, and there would also be an increased demand on welfare and social service programs. State funds that could have been used to prevent problem behaviors would be diverted to addressing problems after the fact.

Preventing crime and strengthening our communities are among PCCD's key goals. By investing in our youth and in our communities, we can continue to play a vital role in making our state's future a strong and healthy one – for every citizen.

Governor Edward G. Rendell's 2009-10 budget is a fiscally responsible spending plan, providing the needed resources to protect our communities. It includes vital investments that will reap dividends down the road: safer cities and towns, schools, and healthier families.

The cuts contained in Senate Bill 850 will bring more pain and devastation, and do very little to assist Pennsylvanians in recovering from the economic challenges of the past year.

I encourage you to contact your local member of the House of Representatives and urge them to vote no on Senate Bill 850.

Lancaster events

July 12 Lancaster Summer Arts Festival offers a Celtic blockbuster night at Long's Park. The phenomenal duo of Fraser & Haas – Scotland's premier fiddle ambassador, Alasdair Fraser. and California cello prodigy Natalie Haas - are joined by Grammy-nominated, Appalachian fiddler Bruce Molsky. Wrote The Boston Globe of Fraser & Haas, "Their sound is as urbane as a Manhattan midnight and as wild as a Clackmannan winter."

Seniors, Disabled, Caregivers Support Expanded Home Care

At a recent joint hearing of the Pennsylvania House Aging and Older Adult Services and Labor Relations Committees, home care consumers and home caregivers testified about their support for a Consumer Workforce Council -- a plan to save essential long term care funds by strengthening home care options for seniors and people with disabilities.

In an effort to make reliable home care an option for more Pennsylvanians, over a hundred people with disabilities, seniors, and home care workers filled a joint House Aging and Older Adult Services and Labor Relations Committee hearing about the Consumer Workforce Council, a proposal to expand home care options for thousands of Pennsylvanians.

Stakeholders in the consumer-employer model of home care, which allows seniors and people with disabilities to directly choose and hire their own worker, told legislators that they need a Council to address problems they face as individual employers. Chief among these problems is the absence of a reliable and retainable workforce ready to serve those who prefer home care to nursing home care. The Consumer Workforce Council, when created, will be a board of home care consumers empowered to address issues commonly faced by consumer-employers.

Many seniors and people with disabilities choose to recruit, hire, schedule and dismiss their own attendants because they believe this offers them maximum independence. But under the current system, turnover is high - over 40% of home care attendants have been on the job one year or less - and home care consumers and their families often struggle to find enough attendants to support them.

Supporters of the consumer-employer model also see the Consumer Workforce Council as strengthening the option they prefer most. In Pennsylvania, home care agencies that hire and manage workers on seniors' and people with disabilities' behalf charge taxpayers a 20% premium to perform functions that many people would rather control themselves.

"I have directed my own home support for 19 years, and I am a strong supporter of the Consumer Workforce Council. I never again want to be faced with the prospect of living in a nursing home," said Vini Portzline, a home care consumer who helped design the Consumer Workforce Council as part of the steering committee that put together the proposal. "The threat is real. Without a reliable and retainable workforce, seniors and people with disabilities find themselves forced into more costly nursing homes and with more people needing support, this threat grows worse."

"Consumer-directed home care costs less in the community, so we absolutely need the Consumer Workforce Council to make sure we can afford to support more people like me," said hearing panelist Joseph Pepe, a senior citizen who has lived with significant disabilities his entire life. "I can state that without some sort of consumer alliance such as the Consumer Workforce Council, the survival in the community of seniors and severely disabled adults will be hit or miss."

The Consumer Workforce Council initiative was designed over the summer of 2008 by a Steering Committee comprised of home care recipients, home caregivers, advocates and other providers. The Council would create a voluntary registry to help match seniors and people with disabilities to qualified home care attendants and will protect home care consumers' rights to fully manage their own long term care. It will also help with finding replacement workers when regular attendants are unavailable.

Advocates of the CWC note that during this tough budget time, the Council would save significant taxpayer dollars by helping state officials rebalance the long term care delivery system away from high cost institutional models to lower cost home based settings. These rebalancing efforts will be especially crucial in states like Pennsylvania which have high numbers of seniors and rapidly growing elderly populations. States with Consumer Workforce Councils or similar models are effectively serving more seniors and people with disabilities in their homes, rather than in nursing homes, and saving millions of long-term care dollars while providing the most-desired form of long term care support. Four out of every five of Pennsylvania's long term care dollars are spent in nursing homes, which cost taxpayers three times as much as home care.

"Home care attendants are proud to stand with seniors and people with disabilities to build the Consumer Workforce Council," said Carol Jones, a home care attendant who supported a young woman with disabilities for over 11 years. "Even though the CWC will be made up of home care consumers who work to expand and direct their own care -- not attendants -- we know the people we support feel as strongly as we do about the need to address the workforce crisis. Our work as attendants is very rewarding, but without livable wages and health benefits, many of us just can't afford to stay on the job."

Pennsylvania's Consumer Workforce Council is supported by the largest senior organizations, disability rights' groups, and health care workers' organizations in the state, including the AARP of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania ADAPT, American Veterans

continued on page 8

Pride at AIDS Walk

Central PA Pride Festival participated in AIDS Walk 2009 sponsored by AIDS Community Alliance with a donation of $170. From left, parade chair Mark Smith, Pride chair Donald Anklem, and board chair Jeff Clouser.

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Local Men4Men Program Wants to Hear from YOU

David Payne

"We want to hear from men in the region about what's on their mind," says David Payne, newly-appointed community educator and coordinator of Men4Men (M4M) at AIDS Community Alliance.

The goal of the program, according to Payne, is to take that input and create events and materials that are not only informative but fun and engaging. In a rapidly changing culture, Payne says, health messages must avoid becoming staid or stale. And, they have to connect with genuine needs.

"The point of the program is to first learn first hand what's going on out there," Payne says. He notes that the program does not require participants to "self-label" as gay, bisexual, transsexual or heterosexual. "It's about behavior, not labels. And whatever an individual's personal sexual practices and preferences are we make no judgments.

We want to learn how to reach and learn from groups and communities of men having sex with other men."

Payne is also looking to recruit men into small group sessions that will focus on building healthier relationships through in-depth discussions, going beyond the narrow context of traditional risk reduction. Payne hopes to generate a conversation that can ultimately benefit a whole community. His focus, he says, will therefore necessarily be broad.

"We'll be asking lots of questions about what guys want in a program," Payne says. "I've worked in the media for many years and have had a public profile. So just because you see me talking to someone don't assume we're talking about sex or sexual identity or about anything in particular.

"All of the conversations will be kept confidential and anonymous," Payne stresses. "Our reason for these conversations is to better understand what the needs, desires, challenges, and barriers men may face. We want to talk about behaviors not individuals or groups."

Payne's emphasis on social networking will not be limited to "brick and mortar" venues. The expanded Men4Men activities will include greater internet visibility via Facebook, Myspace, Manhunt and Gay.com. Guys will be able to ask confidential questions, provide feedback, and learn about upcoming events.

Contact: David Payne at david@aca-pa.com; 717-233-7190. M4M is a component of AIDS Community Alliance.

Giant Visits Midtown Cinema

A giant was seen stalking Midtown Cinema.

Local Entrepreneur's Unique Venture

Ever wonder where you'll live out your golden years?

If local entrepreneur Deb Cartwright's dream comes true, you'll join her small and loving community in an lgbt personal care facility.

"My passion in recent months has been in developing a way to provide affordable personal care for members of the lgbt community," Cartwright says. She has been busy looking at properties and has a particular York County location in her sights.

Cartwright calls her new venture AGE Enterprises. "We're on the cutting edge of gay assisted living in Pennsylvania and ready to break into an untapped market," she says.

I'm working my way through all the detailed due diligence necessary when you open a new business," Cartwright says. She's been pulling together mountains of information, charts, numbers, and a Power Point presentation.

"It's estimated that 4% of the population identified as gay or lesbian. Based on this analysis, there are presently 75,320 gay or lesbian elderly residents in the state of Pennsylvania," Cartwright says. "This statistic also indicates that there are 3,440 gay or lesbian elderly residents in York County alone."

Cartwright points to government statistics that the elderly population (55 to 65) will increase 30.3% over the next three to six years. "This increase will cause even more of a need for great elderly care. This need will create jobs and new assisted living homes all over the country." Pennsylvania is ranked second to Florida for the highest elderly population percentage in the country. Pennsylvania also has a higher than national average of residents who are over the age of 65. Currently, 15.1% of Pennsylvania residents are seniors. The US average is 12.4%.

There are currently more than 1,883,000 seniors in Pennsylvania. This number will most certainly rise in the coming years, as well as the need for assisted living and long term care in Pennsylvania. According to the York County Area Agency of Aging, the York County elderly population (over 60) has increased to 45% since 1990.

More information available by contacting Cartwright at cartwrig htda55@yahoo.com.

Harrah's Hosts Food & Wine Festival July 30 – Aug. 2

Harrah's Entertainment, in cooperation with the Atlantic City Convention & Visitors Authority, will host the 2009 TD Bank Atlantic City Food & Wine Festival July 30 through August 2.

The Festival promises to be the premier event of Atlantic City's summer season with four days of events, tastings and celebrity appearances. Chefs from the Food Network and Bravo will host, demonstrate, mix and mingle with guests at more than 20 events filling the schedule throughout the weekend.

This culinary spectacular presented by TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank®, and benefiting Susan G. Komen for the Cure features a variety of events ranging from gourmet pizza and wine tastings to small group chef demonstrations from the likes of Emeril Lagasse, Tom Colicchio, Duff Goldman, Ted Allen and Ingrid Hoffman. Among the most anticipated events is an intimate dinner with Food Network star chef Guy Fieri as he demonstrates how to prepare a family style dinner.

Each event location is tailored to the audience in various Harrah's Entertainment owned resort locations. Top Chef's Tom Colicchio uncorks select wine tastings at The Pool at Harrah's Resort. Emeril Lagasse teaches his famous Cajun cooking at Showboat. Guy Fieri, along with the Phillips Seafood team, creates a summertime clambake in the historic Dennis Courtyard at Bally's on the world famous Atlantic City Boardwalk.

Info: http://www.harrahs.com

Seniors, Disabled con't'd

(AM Vets), PA Alliance for Retired Americans, Action Alliance of Senior Citizens, Center for Independent Living of Central PA, Center for Independent Living of North Central PA, Tri-County Patriots for Independent Living, Voices for Independence, 1199C NUHHCE, AFSCME/AFL-CIO, SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania, PHI, Pennsylvania Council of Churches, Disabled in Action of Pennsylvania, Inc., Disability Options Network, Liberty Resources for Independence, and others.

Info: Consumer Workforce Council, 866-598-4311; choosehomecare.org.

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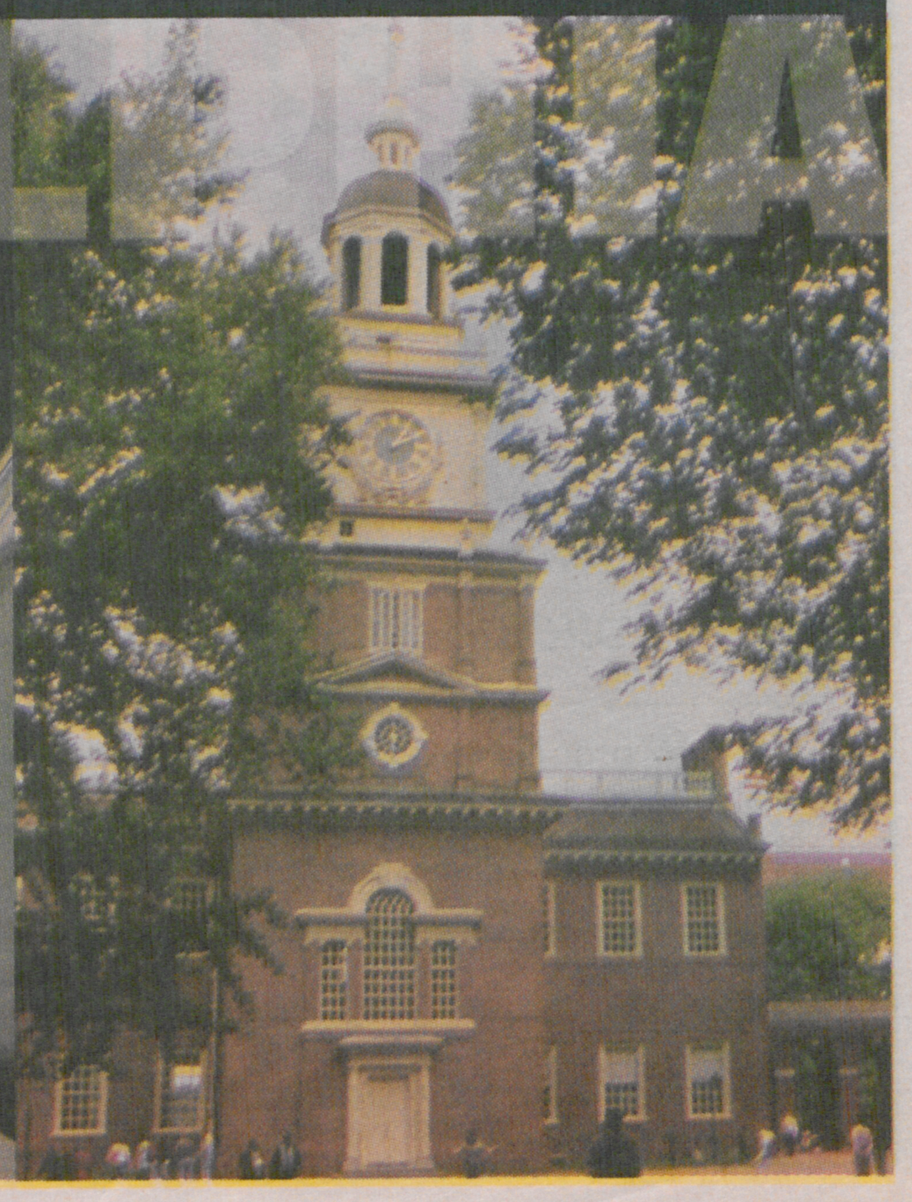

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July 30 & Aug. 2, 8 p.m.
July 31 & Aug. 1, Midnight
Tickets $20; VIP Tickets $25
On the way to visit an old college professor, clean cut kids Brad and Janet experience tire trouble and seek help at the strange house with a light just down the road. The light is coming from the Frankenstein place, where Dr. Frank N. Furter is in the midst of one of his maniacal experiments. Follow the rock and roll musical adventure brought back to YLT this summer by popular demand, which is bursting at the seams with high voltage, hysterically funny, rock and raunch. York Little Theatre, 27 S. Belmont St. York 17403 717-854-5715; www.ylt.org

HERSHEY THEATRE

The Wiggles
August 25, 2009, 3 & 6:30 PM
The most beloved family entertainment band in the world, The Wiggles, are setting out on their wildest adventure to date. The fab four from down under are back with a brand new lineup of songs from their latest album "The Wiggles Go Bananas" including the smash hit "Monkey Man" featuring Australian pop sensation Kylie Minogue. The Wiggles, Captain Feathersword, Dorothy the Dinosaur, Henry the Octopus, Wags the Dog and all the Wiggly Dancers invite their fans to join them as they "Go Bananas Live!" at Hershey Theatre. 717-534-3405; hersheytheatre.com

Crosby, Stills & Nash
Their first gig together was at Woodstock in front of half a million people. Now, four decades into their creative partnership, Crosby, Stills & Nash stops at here July 29, 8 p.m. Tickets $95, $75, $69.50 (processing fees); 717-534-3405 or 1-800-745-3000, Ticketmaster.com, HersheyTheatre.com, and HersheyEntertainment.com.

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Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince: An IMAX 3D Experience
Opens Summer 2009
J. K. Rowling's sixth novel from the popular Harry Potter book series returns to life on the giant screen. Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince features Harry during his sixth year at Hogwarts and explores Lord Voldemort's past. Harry prepares for the final battle amidst emerging romantic relationships, and the emotional confusions and conflict resolutions characteristic of mid-adolescence. Portions of the film will be presented in unparalleled IMAX® 3D! This film is not yet rated. Please note special pricing applies for feature films. For more information and showtimes, please visit whitakercenter.org or call 717/214-ARTS.

Performers: July/August
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I Hate Hamlet by Paul Rudnick, Until July 12
The Queen of Bingo, July 14 -26
Tuesdays With Morrie, July 28 – August 9
I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change!, August 11 – 23
888-805-7056; www.TotemPolePlayhouse.org

STRAND CAPITOL

The Capitol Theatre, 50 N. George St. York, www.strandcapitol.org, 846-1111

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REVIEWS

BOOKS
DVDs
CDs

MUSIC

Teena Marie
Internationally-renowned singer, songwriter, producer and multi-instrumentalist, Teena Marie, released her thirteenth album and Stax Records debut "Congo Square". The collection marks a deeply personal milestone for the iconic soul music star and Rhythm & Blues Awards Lifetime Achievement recipient.

Depeche Mode
Groundbreaking electro legends Depeche Mode now on the road with "Tour Of The Universe" and release of their highly anticipated twelfth studio album Sounds Of the Universe (Mute/Capitol/Virgin).

Yuksek
Yuksek, originally with Birdy Nam Nam's label and wunderkind of the blogs, has crafted some of the dirtiest, most inspired remixes of hits by Mika, Kaiser Chiefs, Ghostface Killah (Wu Tang Clan), French rapper Booba, Tahiti 80. His fiery live sets, where Yuksek's svelte, supple physique swoops between his vintage keyboards and FX board, have set alight concert venues, clubs and festivals. Now, the suave musician - anything but a clubber, strangely enough - is poised to let loose his first album, packed full of future hits called "Tonight", "Extraball" and "I Like To Play".

Vanessa Williams
Internationally-renowned singer and actress Vanessa Williams released her thirteenth album and debut for Concord Records entitled "The Real Thing". The collection marks a return to her love for the rhythms of jazz and Latin music, a key part of her musical roots. The album delves into the sophisticated pop and R&B that have been the hallmark of her dynamic musical career. The music is a passionate song cycle about relationships, and Williams hand-picked each song on the record as it relates to a phase of the modern-day love affair seen from a woman's perspective.

Pussycat Dolls
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Stu Rasmussen Is America's First Transgender Mayor

By Frank Pizzoli

> **"Is this guy for real?"**
>
> ***...from Rasmussen's web site.***

Stu Rasmussen's web site begins: "Is that really a guy?"

He proceeds to explain that he's owned and operated several small businesses in Silverton, Oregon, a community of 9,588. Now mayor a third time Stu, as he prefers to be called, is still the same hard-driven person on the inside. To his fellow residents, and his girlfriend Sage, he's different only on the outside. Rasmussen is America's first openly-elected transgender mayor.

Stu Rasmussen

"I just happen to be transgendered - something I didn't even know the word for until I discovered it on the Internet. I've been a cross-dresser or transvestite my whole life, only 'coming out' recently and thereby discovering that life goes on very nicely," he explains.

The 60-year-old Rasmussen made his transition slowly.

"I took my time making my transition. As I changed I found that many people noticed things but wouldn't ask me. They'd ask my girlfriend Sage. What's up with Stu?" he remembers. She'd simply tell those who were curious to ask Rasmussen themselves. "No one ever did," he says.

"I know I'm not personally homosexual," Rasmussen explains. Details magazine recently published a story that tagged him "Dude Looks Like a Lady" on the cover. "Life enlarges you. The most remarkable things can happen between your ears," he says with conviction in his voice.

Remarkably, and to Rasmussen's credit as an individual, residents and those who voted for him, seem to have judged him on the content of his character and his leadership rather than on his having transitioned. His challenger Ken Hector lost to Rasmussen by 519 votes.

As he's said to the media "To go entirely female didn't appeal to me. This body is exactly where I want to be." He paid $4,000 form 425 cubic inches of saline implants or 36Ds. Sage has said "If it makes him happy that's fine." Rasmussen agrees that the citizens of Silverton employed a bed-rock American value when deciding on him. "The decided they liked me for who I am on the inside, the kind of person I am, not who I may be on the outside."

I wondered if Rasmussen ever sleeps.

A former firmware engineer, Rasmussen also owns a band venue called Palace Theatre, Mt. Angel Performing Arts Center, a corporate media service, mainly photography. "The first are a hobby and a passion. They make no real money," he says. Rasmussen also has a barroom game in the works. "It's a great concept for bars, taverns, restaurants. It's a multiplayer trivia game," he explains.

The municipality he serves grew from 7,500 in the 2000 census to 9,588 in the last count. "We want you to visit, just don't stay," Rasmussen says laughing. Like central Pennsylvania, Silverton has a river running through it, the Silver River. The natural resource is his town's biggest economic and tourist engine.

There's about 45 employees under the supervision of the mayor and a board of councilors. Like cities nationwide, they will receive stimulus money from the feds. "A small amount we'll use to replace a transit vehicle, a jitney used to transport the aging. Maybe repair some streets," Rasmussen says.

Silverton sounds like a small municipality anywhere.

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LGBT community center coalition

Book Clubs; Director

Louis Marven

By Louis Marven, Director of Administration & Youth Services

The LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central Pennsylvania is excited to be coordinating a series of book clubs beginning in September of 2009. The clubs will meet monthly and discuss a different book each meeting. The Center envisions this project as an important step toward creating common ground through providing educational programming to lgbt people and allies in central Pennsylvania.

As a regionally representative center, we will be starting with groups in York, Lancaster and Harrisburg. Please contact Louie Marven, Director of Administration and Youth Services, at lmarven@centralpalgbtcenter.org or (717) 920-9534 if you have interest in learning more about the book clubs starting this fall, including the location you would be interested in joining. Please also contact us if you would be interested in helping to start another club in a different city in the region. This will be a great way to meet new people and get exposed to some of the vast collection of worthwhile lgbt-themed books.

In other programming news, the center is pleased to announce its search for an Interim Program Director. The successful candidate will have responsibility for implementing the initial operational and strategic priorities of the organization as determined by the Board of Directors.

The Interim Program Director will be a strong and collaborative leader with a proven track record in supervision, budgeting, and financial management in regard to organizational programming. The Interim Program Director will be responsible for leading the organization through implementation of our strategic plan and goals, particularly in the area of programming; recruiting, orienting, supervising and training staff and volunteers; providing for organizational policy and procedures; developing work plans based on organizational strategic plan; and motivating staff and volunteers in accomplishing responsibilities and goals. Excellent written and oral communications, creativity and networking are skills that will be possessed by the successful candidate.

The position reports to the Board of Directors, and is contemplated as a part-time (25 hours per week), temporary (6-month) position prior to the hiring of a full-time Executive Director. To obtain a full job description, please direct inquiries to lmarven@centralpalgbtcenter.org.

The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Center Coalition is a volunteer-led effort to create a regionally representative community center that is both a location and a unifying point for Central Pennsylvania's large, diverse and multi-county lgbt population.

community voice

Excitement Video & Toys Kicks Off Pride with Alternative Night July 16

Based on the success of their first event which drew 65 people, Excitement Video & Toys kicks off 2009 Pride with a second "Alternative Night" July 16, 6-9 p.m. at their retail outlet at 3910 Jonestown Road, Harrisburg. (See photos on thecentralvoice.ning.com)

The event introduces brand new products from M2M (Male 2 Male), Titanmen, and Colt.

"We're again offering prizes, discounts, and refreshments," says Harrisburg manager Keith Sattizahn. Brownstone's Lounge and Stallion's Entertainment Complex are participating in the event for a second time.

"We're offering 10% off everything in the store," says Kim Faubel, Excitement Video regional manager. There's also Free Raffles for a chance at the store's Cash Booth. Winners receive EV & T cash to spend that night on toys and other items.

"We want the community to know they're welcome here and from the last attendance looks like word is out," Faubel says. "We're a welcoming atmosphere where you can feel comfortable shopping and asking questions."

The adult entertainment outlet offers DVD titles, toys, and quality lotions, liquids, and playful items, in association with Adult Video News. "We're an glbt-friendly place," Sattizahn says of the well lit, clean, and personable retail outlet.

Info: www.excitementvideoandtoys.com

Pride Picnic at Knoebels Grove August 8

The 15th Annual Pride Picnic at Knoebels Grove will be held Sat., Aug. 8 at Knoebel Grove Amusement Resort, Elysurg PA, Pavilion T10. Although the event is held in the park, the venue is not an official Knoebel's Grove event.

This year the event honors "Silent Witness of PA" by inviting them to come and enjoy the day with fun and celebration.

Pride Picnic started as a gathering of friends 15 years ago and has grown to see over 400 attend the event with great food, friends, and family. Note that "kids of all ages" are always welcome.

Silent Witness will be our guests. We look forward to seeing everyone at this year's picnic as we take a moment to honor an organization that has lent their support to our community over the past years. Its time to give a little back to them.

Covered dish lunch and raffle at 3 pm. Registration begins at 11 am. Join us for the meal or for the day. Bring a covered dish to share, Utensils and Tableware will be provided.

Questions and Directions: Mike and Mike - 717-572-911; Cameron -cw-driver69@yahoo.com; Matt - bearonthemountain@gmail.com

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Philadelphia Fringe Festival Top Pick:
Dean & Britta's Songs for Andy Warhol Screen Tests

By Debra Miller

One of the most highly anticipated events in this year's Philadelphia Live Arts and Fringe Festival is a multimedia performance combining the best of indie music and art film.

13 Most Beautiful…Songs for Andy Warhol's Screen Tests features music by Dean and Britta (formerly of the downtown NYC rock band Luna), which they composed for a selection of thirteen of Andy Warhol's silent four-minute film portraits; the Warhol Screen Tests will be seen in large-scale video projection above the musicians performing live on stage.

Two shows are scheduled for Sept. 18, 7 and 9 p.m. at the Arts Bank of the University of the Arts, 601 South Broad Street. Get tickets early. The performances are likely to sell out quickly. Tickets $25.

13 Most Beautiful…Songs for Andy Warhol's Screen Tests has already played to large and enthusiastic crowds at various contemporary arts centers, museums, and festivals throughout the US and Canada in 2008-09, including Lincoln Center's The Allen Room in New York, Vancouver's PuSH Festival, and the MCA Chicago. Dean found the audiences to be "a good combination of people interested not just in music, but also in art." He admitted that, at first, he was a bit daunted by the project, which is "not quite a rock show," and frightened by the different crowd, composed of "not just our fans, but also Warhol's." But now, after the success of the tour and its extended bookings, he is enjoying the expanded cross-over audiences and a new fan base for Dean and Britta. He was also pleased that his old friend Lou Reed attended the show.

Dean and Britta, 2007; photo courtesy of the artists.

The Andy Warhol Museum in collaboration with The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust commissioned the 13 Most Beautiful project in 2008, as part of the Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts. It was developed by the museum's staff members Ben Harrison (Associate Curator for Performance), Geralyn Huxley (Curator of Film and Video), and Greg Pierce (Assistant Curator of Film and Video). According to Harrison, he approached Dean and Britta to do the music because:

> Dean Wareham and Britta Phillips [who had played the museum previously with Luna] have a sensibility about their songwriting that is romantically drowsy and dreamy, with both languid and churning rhythms, and lyrics full of vivid imagery that seems uniquely appropriate to the levitating and transfixing qualities of Warhol's film portraits.

Warhol's Screen Tests, which number approximately 500, were shot by the artist and his assistants Gerard Malanga and Billy Name between 1964 and 1966. They are revealing psychological studies of both famous and unknown visitors to Andy's infamous silver studio, the Factory, for which Warhol used his stationary 16mm Bolex camera loaded with 100-foot rolls of silent black-and-white film. The resulting two-and-a-half-minute films, which were shot at the sound speed of 24 frames per second, were then projected in slow motion at the silent speed of 16 fps, so that each lasted four minutes and created a hypnotic time-bending mood, in which "reel time" conflicted with "real time." Complementing this dreamlike state were Andy's instructions to his sitters, not to move, not to blink, and not to smile. Though some did, the most captivating and entrancing were those who followed the artist's direction.

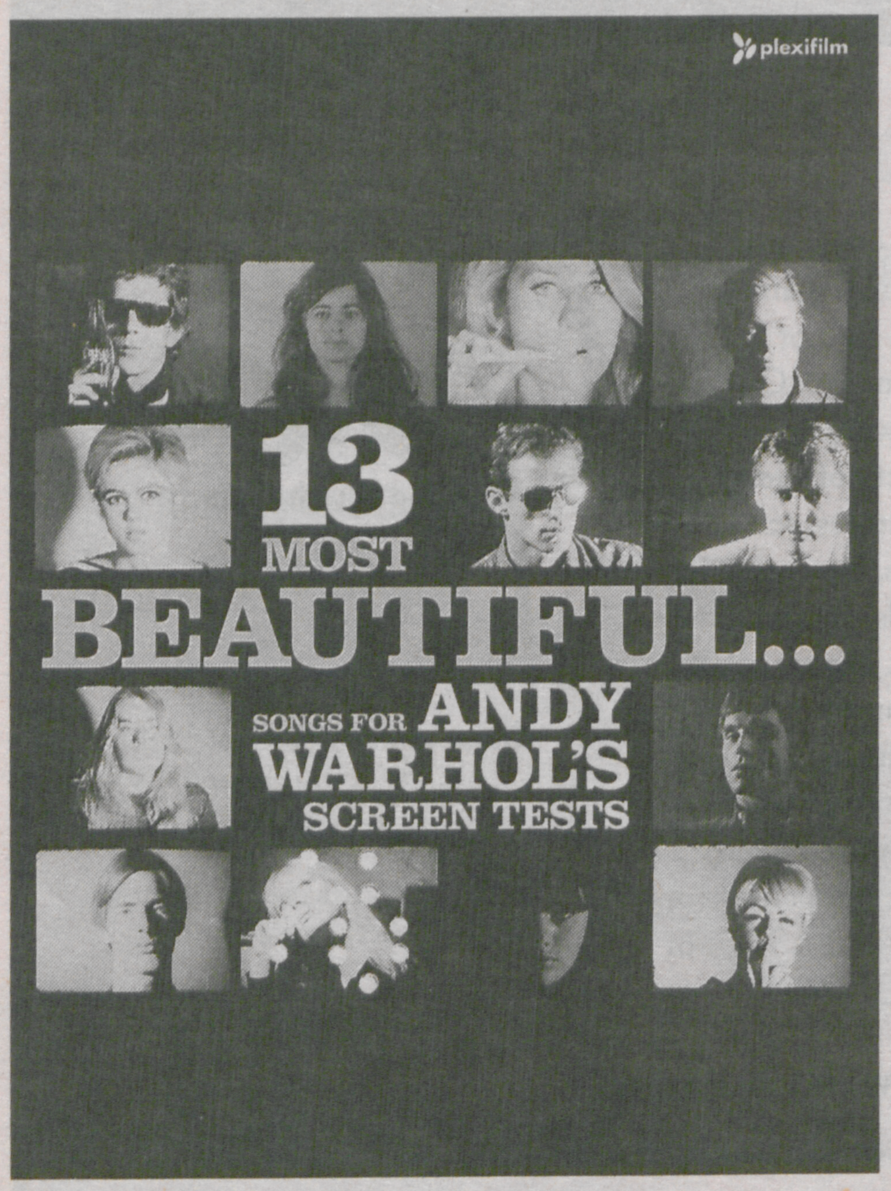
To begin the current project, Dean made three trips to the Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh to view approximately 150 of the Screen Tests and to select the thirteen he would use. For months, he read everything on Warhol and the Factory, watched documentaries about them, and became very interested in the people who were there.

He was especially fascinated by those who were not just one-time visitors (like Bob Dylan), but were the daily denizens of the Factory, the major contributors and collaborators who formed the studio and had a significant impact on the art. Dean noted that five of his choices (Edie Sedgwick, Nico, Freddy Herko, Paul America, and Ingrid Superstar) "are dead, and therefore romanticized a bit," which surely adds to their mystique, both in the revealing Warhol films and in the mesmerizing soundtracks they inspired by Dean and Britta.

Many of the Screen Tests were included by Warhol in his constantly changing film compilations of the 13 Most Beautiful Women and 13 Most Beautiful Boys, which inspired the name of Dean and Britta's performance. The Screen Tests were also used, along with other Warhol films, as part of the light show for Andy's 1966 multimedia Happening, the Exploding Plastic Inevitable. In those shows, The Velvet Underground and Nico performed their live music, accompanied by Superstars Gerard Malanga, Mary Woronov, Ronnie Cutrone, and others dancing and bathed in light from large projections of psychedelic slides and the films. In this respect, Dean sees Andy as "an early punk rocker—not just in his look and his clothes, but in his attitude and his concept," and considers his collaboration with the Velvet Underground to have been "extremely important for both the Velvets and Warhol, and for the history of both art and rock--for the whole punk movement." To Dean's list we must also add Andy's and the EPI's importance to the evolution of performance art, and, consequently, to the Philly Live Arts and Fringe Festival—the perfect venue for this present project.

The inspiration of Lou Reed and the Velvet Underground is apparent throughout Dean and Britta's moving homage to the Warhol circle. In composing the music for the 13 Most Beautiful, Dean acknowledged that he "struggled with what would be the correct approach, what would Warhol have wanted—which is, of course, unanswerable." But he feels that "the four-minute reels are the perfect length for a song" and that his score captures the "repetitive minimalism" of Warhol's films and the mercurial quality of his evocative subjects. "Some of the songs," he said, "came easily, others were difficult . . . You can have an idea, but the picture tells you; each has a mood, which often shifts, like a psychological test."

We are very happy to welcome the 13 Most Beautiful to Philadelphia as the one show not to be missed in the Live Arts Festival. Copies of the 13 Most Beautiful DVD will be available for purchase and signing, as will copies of Dean's new book, Black Postcards: A Memoir, chronicling his personal journey through the music world.



Collage - Photo courtesy of the Warhol Museum

Performance of 13 Most Beautiful, with projection of Screen Test, Lou Reed by Andy Warhol; photo by Rob Long, courtesy of the Warhol Museum.

MCC column

Of Rainbows and Pride

Rev. Charles Tigard
Interim Pastor, MCC, Harrisburg

Every year at Metropolitan Community Church Key West we hosted a diversity forum for Lutheran youth campers. They came to the island to participate in work projects, learn from each other, and study scripture.

The forum was a big deal. For these Lutheran youth and their adult chaperones to simply set foot in a LGBT identified congregation was an act of boldness. For others this forum was their first opportunity to listen to the honest stories of lgbt people.

I will never forget the night a teenage girl stood up bravely to ask a question of the panel, "Why do gay people use the rainbow?" she asked.

I told her the story of Noah's ark and the rainbow. In the Bible the rainbow was given as a sign of God's promise and peace.

In justice movements around the world the rainbow flag is a symbol of hope and peace.

The first gay pride flag was introduced in 1978 by Gilbert Baker, during the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day Parade.

It was during that same parade in the summer of 1978 that supervisor Harvey Milk marched and rallied the crowd with what would become known as his 'Hope Speech.'

"On this anniversary of Stonewall, I ask my gay sisters and brothers to make the commitment to fight. For themselves, for their freedom, for their country ... We will not win our rights by staying quietly in our closets ... We are coming out to fight the lies, the myths, the distortions. We are coming out to tell the truths about gays, for I am tired of the conspiracy of silence, so I'm going to talk about it. And I want you to talk about it. You must come out."

We can truly take pride in the ways we continue to work for justice and freedom. We can take pride in the ways we have responded to injustice and prejudice with strength and unity.

Milk's words remind us 31 years later that our work is far from complete.

Parades and festivals will take place around the world this summer to mark the anniversary of the Stonewall riots.

LGBT Pride is a celebration of self. It is also a celebration of a movement and what we have accomplished.

Pride must also be an opportunity to reflect and organize. Our celebrations must be tempered with the reality that our work is not done. We must continue marching and organizing until our relationships and marriages are fully recognized under state and federal law. We must continue to march until all people are free to pursue their truth and live free of hate and prejudice.

Maya Angelou said, "When someone shows you who they are, believe them."

Our community understands and lives this fundamental truth everyday. Pride is an opportunity to show our community and world who we are- a joyful, affirmed, and honest people.

We must continue to march until all people can join us under the rainbow banner of freedom, hope, and peace.

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my world of music

DJ Barry B

Boom Boom Pow with Black Eyed Peas...

Who are they and where did they come from? The group Black Eyed Peas originated in 1995. The group based out of Los Angeles hit it big with their 2003 breakout cd "Elephunk: The group consist of four main members, Stacy Ann Ferguson better known as Fergie being the lead singer, William J. Adams known as Will I Am, Allan Pineda Lindo, and Jaime Luis Gómez. Originally, Nicole Scherzinger the lead singer currently of the Pussycat Dolls was approached to join the Peas. Nicole was forced to deny because she was a member of Eden's Crush and was under contract. It was Fergie's lead locals that pushed them onto the charts and they have never looked back. T he group's pop/dance oriented style of music has sold an estimated 17 million albums worldwide and 9 million singles. Black Eyed Peas have a number of songs on the popular web site iTunes that can't be found anywhere on their cd's. Check out their current cd release "The E.N.D." ("The Energy Never Dies") on Interscope Records. The first single released "Boom Boom Pow" became the group's first song to reach number 1, where it has remained for 11 weeks, on the Billboard Hot 100. Currently burning up the charts is their second single "I Gotta Feeling". On a side note, If you pick up their cd at the store that has a red bulls eye for a logo you get it with four extra tracks.

Rumors that are true....

Whitney Houston will be returning to the music sceen. Her first single "I Didn't Know My Own Strength" should surface around early September. The single was written by music legend David Foster. All ears will be listening to see if she is still the music diva she once was. Cher's daughter Chasity Bono will soon be Chaz Bono. What does that mean? Well it means sex change from female to male. Chaz said she desires to marry her longtime girlfriend as a man. Bono's sexuality is nothing new. In fact, it's been 20 years since she's come out of the closet. Chasity doesn't have much to do with music but her mother Cher does. Cher after taking a brief break is finishing up her gig at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. It is also reported that she finished filming a new movie titled "The Drop-out". with Johnny Knoxville.

80's Flash Back Time....

For all you music fans on the 80's check out the web site www.the80schild.com. The web site is full of information containing news and tour dates on all your favorite 80's music groups. Find where The Go-Go's or Duran Duran have been all these years. You just might be surprised many of them are still around. You can find tour dates for Blondie, Pat Benatar, The Pet Shop Boys and more! You can see how Rick Springfield, New Kids on the Block, or your favorite artist looked then and now. Speaking of the 80's the lovely Tiffany with"I Think We're Alone Now" will be at our very own Pride Festival here in Harrisburg on Saturday, July 25th.

Mechanicsburg Offers Free Concerts on the Corner

Downtown Mechanicsburg's 6th Annual "Concerts on the Corner" music series continues through September. The venue features free performances by local and regional musicians every Thurs., 7-9 p.m. on the corner of Market and Main Streets in downtown Mechanicsburg.

The series features musicians, singers and songwriters performing original and popular music to bring family, friends and neighbors together for a toe-tapping good time. The Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Mechanicsburg sponsor the events. The Foot Traffic Partnership, a group of downtown Mechanicsburg merchants, organizes the music series.

Bring your kids, bring your friends, bring a lawn chair, and be sure to bring yourself to the Mechanicsburg's square at Market and Main Streets. Even during those summer thunderstorms, musicians will still be singin' in the rain at the rain location: Gallerie 13, 13 East Main Street, Mechanicsburg.

July performances include:

July 2 – Andrew Bellanca - Mix of Jazz, Brazilian, Latin and Blues music.

July 9 – Jonathan Frazier -Known throughout the region.

July 16 – Seasons - Regionally renowned musical Lee family, classic and popular music.

July 23 – High Tops - 50s through '80s "rock 'n' roll" music, plus jitterbug.

July 30 – Hemlock Hollow - Interpretations of 60s rock, Beatles, Rolling Stones, Grateful Dead, and folk, blue grass, and country.

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Michael Lucas Still Renegade

By Frank Pizzoli

Sworn in as a US citizen November 12, 2004, the 37-year-old edgy porn producer Michael Lucas was born in Moscow. He has a law degree. He migrated to France, where he began modeling and appearing on several European television programs and covers of many European magazines. In 1998, Lucas opened his own production company, Lucas Entertainment, in New York City.

Later that year, he made his directorial debut with the well-received "Back in the Saddle" that established his "renegade" vision that is truly New York. Basing his company in the Big Apple, as opposed to the more traditional Los Angeles, enabled Lucas to showcase the diversity of types and ethnicities found nowhere else.

Almost 40 years after the Stonewall Rebellion gay men are still being harassed by the New York City Police Department. Since 2004, the NYPD has entrapped and arrested 52 gay or bisexual men on trumped-up prostitution charges in eight adult video stores in Manhattan. In each case, an attractive young man would approach an older man who is minding his own business in the sex shop and proposition him. Once the older man agrees to the proposition, the younger man would offer his partner money for sex, and then proceed to arrest him for "prostitution." Lucas addresses the issue below.

At a time when industry icons are debating if porn remains "recession proof," Lucas is keeping pace. His films are available at Excitement Video, Harrisburg, PA

CV: In Entrapment, you explore two issues. In the film, you portray harassment of gay men by police. In a separate section, you address how such harassment infringes on your free access to the market. What's the state of affairs today for you on the issue?
ML: The harassment in the gay porn stores does not affect my business because most of my sales are done online. The customers who buy my products in DVD stores are shrinking. I don't believe it is directly correlated to this issue. It is an issue for the gay community's rights and the violation of those rights; this is why I wanted to explore it.

CV: In an Advocate story you questioned the received wisdom that porn is recession proof. Where do you see the industry going? Any plans to go public? Consolidations?

ML: I think that the economy is negatively affecting all fields of commerce. However, I believe in the end it is all about quality. The superior companies will stay strong and it will weed out the amateur and inferior.

CV: Your production values are remarkably high, cinematic. How do you assemble the talent needed to make such quality product?

ML: I have been in this business for thirteen years; I have honed the skills necessary to assemble a top-notch team. I have an instant sense on who gets it and who doesn't. I am very strong producer and I know what I want and I work with people who know how to deliver my vision.

CV: In still Puritanical America, can you look into your crystal ball and forecast when we might see a shift in attitudes and values on gay and lesbian sex?

ML: In Puritanical American I bet they do their best to never think about us gays having sex. But in all seriousness, I don't need a crystal ball it is obvious by the multiple states in the past few months alone passing legislature for gay rights. This is direct association with a shift in public opinion.

CV: The younger the age group the less concern about sexual identity. Are we moving into a cultural phase of where sexual tastes may be more fluid, a kind of pan-sexuality?

ML: Well in the previous question you insinuated that Puritanical America is uncomfortable with gay sex so you tell me :)

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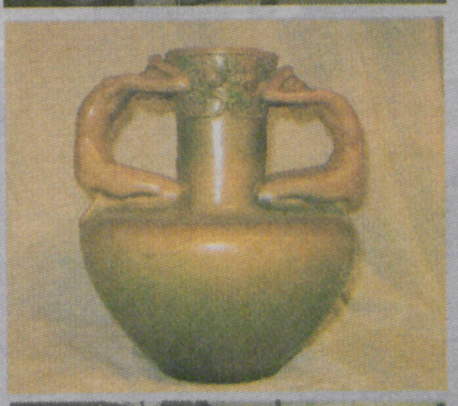

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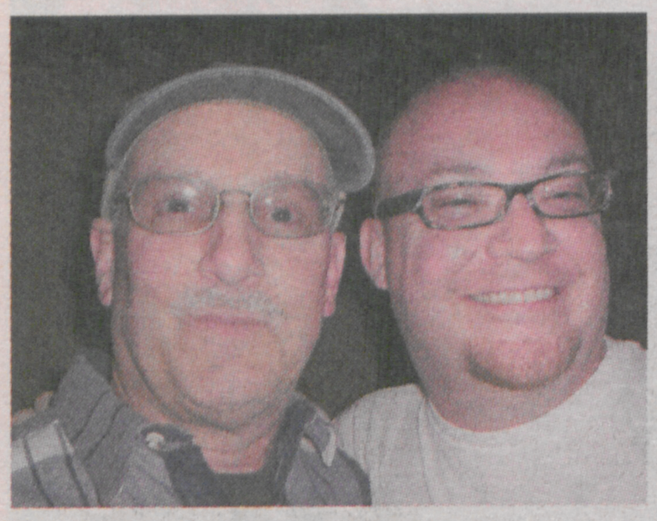
Pride Dine Out & Stallions Entertainment Complex

Pride Festival of Central PA hosted Dine Out (May 12), benefiting the region's largest lgbt and allied event July 24-26 along the Susquehanna River. Participating restaurants were Zephyr's Express, Mangia Qui, Nonna's, and Liquid 891. The Parade preceding Pride that moves through downtown Harrisburg this year, in honor of the Stonewall Rebellion's 40th Anniversary, features Stonewall Veteran's Association members. And then we have photos from the ever-popular Stallions Entertainment Complex.



5 Reasons Gays Love Sylvia

By Mark Rowlande

Sylvia Tosun - the electrifying new artist that exploded on international dance floors last summer with the hit "Underlying Feeling" - is a rare blend. She is a showy singer (like Cher) with astounding vocal fire power (like Celine Dion) and a confessional songwriter's ethic (like Jewel).

"'Underlying Feeling' was a real and true emotion I was feeling at the time I wrote the song," she explains of her first hit single, which climbed to #1 on Masterbeat.com. "I was falling in love and out of curiosity; I looked up the word 'love' in the dictionary. One of the definitions was 'an underlying feeling of oneness.'"

Tosun has won several awards for her music including the Songwriter's Hall of Fame Excellence in Songwriting Award and the USA Songwriting Contest Award. Her single, "Sleepless", received the Independent Music Award for Best Dance Song.

She attributes her interests in music to her family tree. "My grandfather was an acclaimed concert pianist and my grandmother was a sculptor and painter who taught the mandolin."

Last summer, Sylvia Tosun broke the single that would become her first #1 hit at New York City Gay Pride's Pier Dance. She opened for Jennifer Hudson. "I had so much fun. I performed in front of eight thousand people. It was a humbling and incredibly enjoyable experience."

She'll premiere her second single "Five Reasons" at gay prides across the USA. Visit http://sylviatosun.com/ .

Here are the top 5 REASONS Gays Love Sylvia:

5) Sylvia opened for Jennifer Hudson at New York's 2008 Gay Pride.

4) Sylvia also performed with gay faves Alicia Keys and Cyndi Lauper at the Great Wall of China.

3) Sylvia is styled by The Blonds, the fashion duo behind Madonna's Sticky & Sweet tour, Katy Perry's "I Kissed a Girl" Grammy appearance and Britney Spears' Circus album. , She is fashioned by Carlos Davis, the Fashion Editor of Style Monte Carlo Magazine.

2)Mike Ruiz, the sexy muscle-bound fashion photographer from RuPaul's Drag Race, shot Sylvia's "Underlying Feeling" and "5 Reasons" music videos.

1) Sylvia's hands are 23 years younger then Madonna's!

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Over the last several months my works have been shown in many different venues such as Hershey Medical Center, Dauphin County Courthouse, Gallery at Walnut Place, Mansion at Reservoir Park, Stocks on 2nd, Molly Branigans, Appalachian Brewing Company, and the Art Association of Harrisburg.

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Civil War? No, just a healthy debate

By Lowman S. Henry

It didn't look good. The party had lost control of the White House and both houses of Congress. In the aftermath of defeat there were many voices raised urging divergent directions. No one seemed to speak for the party as a whole. There was talk the party was headed for permanent minority status.

That sounds like the Republican Party of today, but it was written to describe the Democratic Party just four years ago as it floundered about in the aftermath of George W. Bush's successful re-election campaign. The president had political capital to spend, and it would be spent entrenching the GOP as the dominant national political party for a generation to come.

It didn't turn out that way. The Bush Administration squandered its political capital, lost control of Congress and then yielded the White House to a U.S. Senator who two years before his election was unknown to most Americans. It was a stunning turn-around in electoral fortunes grounded in Republican mis-management of the federal government and abandonment of its core principles.

Although it is too soon to tell if Democrats will do any better, there is no doubt that Republicans are engaged in the type of debate for the heart and soul of the party that accompanies an electoral defeat. Should the party return to its core values? Should the party move to the middle and become more like Democrats? Who will speak for the party: Dick Cheney or Colin Powell, Rush Limbaugh or Tom Ridge?

Powell, the former Secretary of State, along with former Pennsylvania governor and Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge have emerged as spokesmen for the GOP's declining moderate wing. Both reignited the direction of the party debate this past weekend during appearances on national news programs. Both assailed the conservative wing of the GOP and argued for a more centrist stance.

The fact is neither has the credentials to emerge as a national party leader. In particular Powell is a flawed messenger. It is hard for the rank and file of the GOP to take seriously the views of a man who abandoned his party's nominee in the last election. Powell endorsed Obama in the closing days of the campaign, adding to the momentum than buried John McCain. McCain had always been touted as the darling of the media and the moderates, so if Powell could not support him, who would be "moderate" enough to win his backing?

Powell can be easily dismissed as an opportunist. Ridge, however, must be taken more seriously. McCain and Ridge have been good friends since both served in Congress, so Ridge campaigned hard for McCain and kept his party credentials intact. The bottom line though is that Ridge's moderate buddy lost. Were the party to nominate, as Ridge seems to suggest, someone to the left of McCain in 2012, the conservative base would surely abandon it.

Both Secretary Powell and Secretary Ridge are right about one thing: a party must build upon its base. But, before you can build upon a base you must secure the base. That has not yet happened. For the Republican Party to succeed in the future it must have an energized, effective base of conservative support - and then strive to build coalitions that can operate in harmony with that base.

This is what Democrats have done over the past four years. Democrats have employed what has at times been a schizophrenic strategy by moving to the right when necessary and to the left when necessary. For example, in many U.S. Senate and Congressional elections Democrats have tacked to the right (for them) as they did when selecting Robert P. Casey, Jr. to run for the U.S. Senate in Pennsylvania. Then, in the presidential election they moved hard to the left as an energized activist wing propelled the liberal Barack Obama to the nomination over the more centrist Hillary Clinton.

The lesson learned? You can't win nationally without the passionate support of your party's base, and you win the more localized elections for congressional seats by being ideological enough to keep your base while reaching out and adding compatible constituencies to your coalition.

Before it can begin reaching out, the GOP must first reaffirm its core principles. Then the party must begin appealing to those alienated by the strong leftward tilt of the Democrats. And finally, in recognition of the fact the nation's demographics are changing, the GOP must take its message to non-traditional constituencies with whom its core principle will resonate. In that way Republicans can again emerge as the dominant national party.

Lowman S. Henry is Chairman & CEO of the Lincoln Institute and host of the weekly Lincoln Radio Journal. His e-mail address is lhenry@lincolninstitute.org

York Little Theatre Big in Spirit

York Little Theatre was established in 1933 during the height of the Great Depression. Founders believed in the joy the arts could bring to an otherwise downtrodden community. They began with Oscar Wilde's Lady Windermere's Fan.

Today YLT produces more than 12 major shows each year including full scale musicals, heart-wrenching tragedies, hair-raising adventures and side splitting comedies. There are two theatre spaces at York Little Theatre. One is a traditional proscenium seating theatre with 250 seats. The other is a flexible black-box space which is home to our Studio Series of plays and is currently set up for 110 seats.

YLT has been a supporter of Club XS's Black and White Party in a variety of ways including producing events, providing volunteers, supplying equipment and general support.

York Little Theatre is a 501 (C)(3) charitable nonprofit community theatre dedicated to engaging our entire, diverse community in the dramatic arts through participation, education, dialogue, encouragement, enlightenment and inspiration. The theatre enriches the lives of the citizens of South Central Pennsylvania through a broad range of professionally directed, entertaining, stimulating and sometimes provocative performances.

Generally their Mainstage Series of productions is a blend of musicals and plays chosen from some of theatre's best. Fans of the traditional theatre experience enjoy these entertaining and exciting productions. Our Studio Series of plays are evocative and provocative performance pieces which draw audiences in with a unique look at what it means to be human. These powerful and edgy pieces incite audiences to challenge their everyday beliefs and re-examine how they interact with the world around them. Our Children's Series features magical productions for the whole family, performed by casts of all ages. YLT is dedicated to exposing youth to and involving them in theatre.

Mainstage Series for August offers The Seven Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor (August 14 – 23, 2009). The 2009-2010 Season: Mainstage Series: Forbidden Broadway: Greatest Hits (Sept. 4 – 20, 2009); Beauty and the Beast (November 6 – 22, 2009); A Chorus Line (March 12 – 28, 2010); Hairspray (pending permission) (July 9 – 25, 2010); Studio Series: Frozen (Oct. 9 – 18, 2009); 12 Angry Jurors (Jan. 15 – 24, 2010); Once on this Island (April 16 – 25, 2010); and Shared Assets, Winner of the PA Original Playwright Contest, (June 18 – 27, 2010); The Rabbittransit Children's Series: The Nutcracker and the Mouse King (Dec. 11 – 20, 2009); Dracula (Feb. 12 – 21, 2010); Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (May 14 – 23, 2010); and the First Annual Junior Drama Competition (August 13 – 22, 2010).

YLT is goverfed by a Board of Directors which consists of approximately 12 people. Our staff of 7 consists of Julie Aiken, Managing Director; Eric Bradley Long (Artistic Director); Robert McCleary (Technical Director); Ken Barber (Business Development Manager); Deb Thro (Public Relations Manager); Stacy Ryan (Office Assistant); and Patee Pizzirousso (Costume Coordinator). YLT could not exist without the support of its volunteers of which we have many. Last season nearly 1000 YLT volunteers logged in more than 37,000 volunteer hours supporting YLT.

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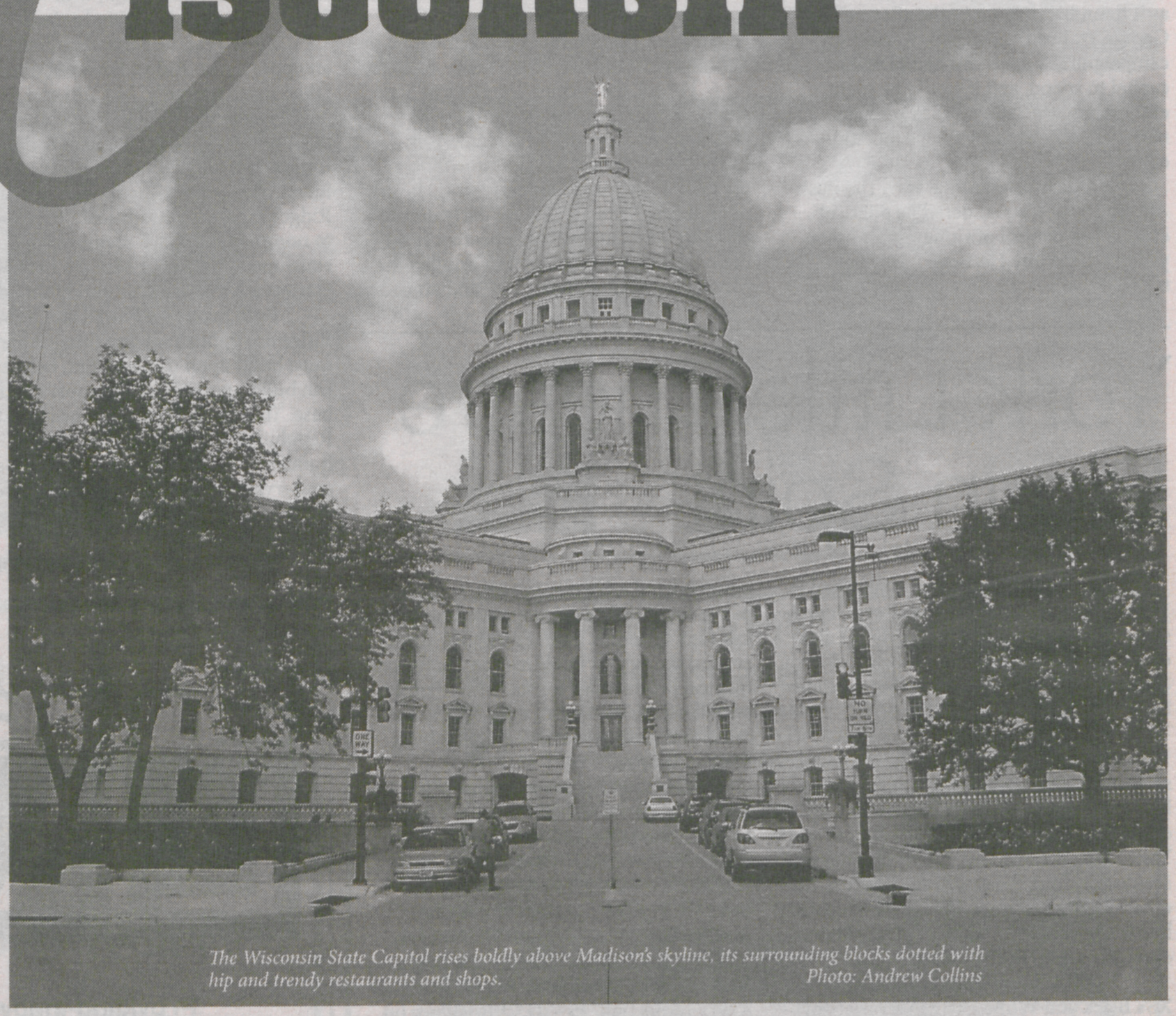
OUT OF TOWN
by Andrew Collins

Madison Wisconsin



The Wisconsin State Capitol rises boldly above Madison's skyline, its surrounding blocks dotted with hip and trendy restaurants and shops. *Photo: Andrew Collins*

Of mid-sized cities, Madison is one of the gay-friendliest in America. The regional political ethos is tolerance, and the city's role as state capital and home base of the University of Wisconsin informs both the community's attitudes and its styles. About 60 miles due west of Milwaukee, Madison occupies an enviable position along a narrow isthmus between two picturesque lakes, Mendota and Monona. Biking and hiking trails crisscross the city's gently rolling hills. It's easy to see why Money magazine once named Madison the best place to live in America.

Other notable rankings - and there have been many - include being one of Outside magazine's "Dream Towns," one of Utne Reader's "Most Enlightened Towns" and one of Cosmo's top cities for finding single men - presumably the focus was _straight_ single men, but there are plenty of gay single guys here, too. And here's yet another fact about Madison - it has among the most unified and visible feminist communities of any U.S. city. Women, including quite a few lesbians, occupy influential positions in all walks of city life.

Although regaled mostly for its livability, Madison (population 225,000) makes for a great visit. The museums are excellent, and the University of Wisconsin (UW) lands top-name speakers and performers. The dining scene is on par with any city its size, and while queer nightlife options are few, they're also convivial and friendly.

Engaging State Street, a transit-and-pedestrian mall, connects Madison's two most important institutions: the capitol building and the university. If you have time, take a tour of the particularly regal, granite-domed Wisconsin State Capitol, which dazzles visitors with its ornate murals, glass mosaics and marble detailing.

Up near Capitol Square, State Street is largely the domain of suits and politicos, but closer to the campus of UW you'll encounter a more collegiate scene - cheap ethnic restaurants, bike racks, coffeehouses and scads of funky shops. Don't miss A Room of One's Own, a capacious, clean and comfy bookstore with a comprehensive selection of lesbian and feminist titles, local resources, and a considerable gay male section, too.

Also within the parameters of State Street are several museums that constitute Madison's Museum Mile. The best are the Wisconsin Historical Society Museum, which traces the state's progressive political history, dairy-farming traditions and rich ethnic heritage; the Elvehjem Museum of Art, which contains a tremendous range of works, dating as far back as 2300 B.C.; and the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, which occupies a striking modern building and adjoins the similarly dazzling Overture Center for the Arts.

In fact, Madison is noted for groundbreaking architectural achievements, perhaps the most famous being the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, completed in 1997 according to the Frank Lloyd Wright's ambitious blueprints. Take one of the building's daily tours or head up to the rooftop garden for a free concert and lake view. Additionally, eight Frank Lloyd Wright buildings within a two-hour drive of Madison are open to the public. The must-see is Taliesin, Wright's sprawling home and studio complex, about 45 minutes away.

Back on State Street, head away from the Capitol to reach the gracious lakefront campus of the University of Wisconsin, the domain of 40,000 students. Start at the Old Red Gym Visitors Center for campus tours and general information. Then drop by the Wisconsin Memorial Union. Out back, overlooking Lake Mendota, is the seductive Memorial Union Terrace, one of the Midwest's most intellectual pick-up spots, gay or straight.

The Lake Monona Bike Trail Loop is one of several well-maintained trails in this incredibly cyclist-friendly city. Another great option, southwest of downtown, is the UW Arboretum Bike Trail. Pick this up at Henry Vilas Zoo and follow it through the esteemed and quite beautiful UW Arboretum, which has 1,260 acres of trails, forest, prairie and wetland. Another spot for taking in the outdoors, the Olbrich Botanical Gardens comprises 16 acres of lush plantings, plus a 50-foot-tall pyramidal conservatory.

The presence of a political scene has infused the city with a bounty of excellent restaurants at the high end and what feels like a thousand cheap eats for frugal budgets. Food buffs shouldn't miss Capitol Square's delightful Dane County Farmers' Market (Saturdays and Wednesdays, mid-April through early November), one of the best in the country.

Across the street, you can sample many of those fine ingredients, put to highly creative use, at Harvest restaurant - a standout from the ever-changing menu is oven-roasted wild king salmon with fennel, tomatoes and rosemary with an olive vinaigrette. A couple of doors over, L'Etoile has been turning heads with its superb farm-fresh American (with French accents) cuisine since 1976, and it continues to hold its own against Madison's many hip newcomers. Be sure to order a cheese course - L'Etoile has some of the most unusual artisan selections in the country.

One restaurant that's turned nearby King Street into a dining destination, Cafe Con-

continued on page 23

Out of Town con'td

tinental charms patrons with an imported zinc bar and burgundy banquettes. The menu leans toward Mediterranean, with a variety of pizzas, pastas and grilled meats. A favorite lunch spot near the Capitol, Marigold Kitchen serves light, healthful salads, sandwiches and breakfast/brunch fare, including a tasty duck-confit hash with two eggs any style. Owned partly by Butch Vig, the musician from the queer-popular alternative band Garbage, Cafe Montmartre is a laid-back, artsy spot to listen to cool live jazz bands, sip wine and munch on quite credible bistro fare.

For fresh sushi as well as nicely prepared teriyaki, sukiyaki and tempura dishes, tuck into Wasabi on State Street. Noodle joints are another Madison specialty, a funky favorite being Wah Kee Wonton Noodle. And don't leave town without stopping by Michael's Frozen Custard to scarf down a cup of Madison's favorite dessert - in addition to serving custard so thick you could anchor a flagpole in it, Michael's serves up fries and juicy burgers.

Monty's Blue Plate Diner is a fabulous homestyle diner serving both tried-and-true and more inventive fare, from roasted-veggie sandwiches to luscious vanilla malts. Near the Capitol, Michelangelo's Coffee House effectively captures Madison's boho personality. This elegant, art-filled space has comfy sofas and small tables and draws lots of "family" - you can also get savory veggie wraps bursting with lentils, rice, spinach and hummus.

Madison's biggest and most popular gay night spot, Club 5 is a spacious spread offering a little something for everyone: a pulsing video dance bar; a patio and separate dart and pool lounges for both lesbians and leather-and-Levi's guys. Downtown, the low-keyed Shamrock Bar is a draws a quirky mix of gays, lesbians and straights of all ages and styles. Madison's StageQ is one of the nation's foremost GLBT-themed theater companies, staging outstanding and often provocative productions throughout the year.

Among downtown hotels, the upscale Hilton Madison is a reliable choice with spacious and well-kept rooms outfitted with Wi-Fi, plush bedding and sleek, contemporary furnishings. An inexpensive lodging choice overlooking the Capitol, the Best Western Inn on the Park is also close to the Shamrock gay bar and plenty of good restaurants. Rooms at this very gay-friendly property have a slightly old-school look, but the location and prices make it an excellent value.

There are several gay-friendly B&Bs in Madison and the surrounding countryside. At Arbor House, innkeepers Cathie and John Imes have turned one of Madison's oldest houses into a remarkably eco-friendly B&B. There are two buildings, an 1853 stagecoach tavern - with original wood floors and natural-stone fireplaces - and a light-filled contemporary annex outfitted with thick walls made with reused wood and concrete, ceramic tiles fashioned out of recycled glass and low-toxic building materials. Rooms are quite cushy, the top units with whirlpool tubs. Just south of town, the women-owned Hawk's Nest Resort consists of a pair of beautiful, airy timber-beam cabins that are ideal for groups of friends seeking a getaway. Both units have three bedrooms and can sleep up to eight guests. A tranquil lake is just down the street, and this is a terrific area for biking. You'd never know you're less than a 20-minute drive from downtown Madison.

Andrew Collins is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA and eight additional travel guides. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

The Little Black Book

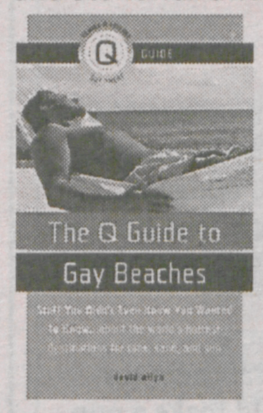
- Western Inn on the Park (608-285-8000 or 800-279-8811, www.innonthepark.net)
- Cafe Continental (608-251-4880, www.znbar.com)
- Cafe Montmartre (608-255-5900, www.themomo.com)
- Club 5 (608-277-9700, www.club-5.com)
- Harvest (608-255-6075, www.harvest-restaurant.com)
- Hawk's Nest Resort (608-838-4798, www.hawksnestresort.com)
- Hilton Madison (608-255-5100, www.hilton.com)
- L'Etoile (608-251-0500, www.letoile-restaurant.com)
- Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau (608-255-2537 or 800-373-6376, www.visitmadison.com)
- Marigold Kitchen (608-661-5559, www.marigoldkitchen.com)
- Michael's Frozen Custard (608-222-4110, www.ilovemichaels.com)
- Michelangelo's Coffee House (608-251-5299)
- Monty's Blue Plate Diner (608-244-8505, www.foodfightinc.com/montys.htm)
- Shamrock Bar (608-255-5029, www.shamrockbar.com)
- StageQ (608-294-0740, www.stageq.com)
- Wah Kee Wonton Noodle (608-255-5580)
- Wasabi (608-255-5020, www.wasabi-madison.com)

book review

Dauphin County Library Offers Award-winning LGBT Titles

By Lewis Maurer
Dauphin County Library System

Did you know that Dauphin County Library has new, classic and award winning lgbt titles just waiting for you to check out? There's still time this summer to settle in at the beach and enjoy a "Summer Must-Read" or a tote full of Lambda and Stonewall award-winning titles.



The Q Guide to Gay Beaches (The Q Guides) by David Allyn
"Stuff you didn't know you wanted to know…about the world's hottest destinations for tans, sand and sun."

My Diva, edited by Michael Montlack
Writings by gay men about female icons that have most influenced their lives. "Instead of the cascade of Judys one might expect, …a remarkable range of favorite divas (Sappho, Mary J. Blige, Princess Leia…)"
OUT, June/July

Damron Mens Travel Guide by Gina M. Gatta

Damron Women's Traveller by Gina M. Gatta

At Least in the City Someone Would Hear Me Scream, by Wade Rouse
Have you ever fantasized about ditching the city life for peace and quiet in the woods? Rouse gives up his addictions to lattes and Kenneth Cole to try the simple life. Hilarious!

Award winners:

The Gay Gene Discovery by Linda Sones Feinberg

Make Me a Match, Volume I edited by Nicki Bennett

A Perfect Waiter, by Alain Sulzer

The Bisexual's Guide to the Universe: Quips, Tips and Lists for Those Who Go Both Ways, by Nicole Kristal

Comfort Food for Breakups: The Memoir of a Hungry Girl by Marusya Bociurkiw

First Person Plural, Andrew W. Beierie

First Person Queer: Who We Are (So Far) by Richard LaBonte

Out of Love, by K.G. MacGregor

The Tourists, by Jeff Hobbs

Info: Stop by your Dauphin County Library System library or visit www.DCLS.org for access to the best in lgbt reading.

Susquehanna Chorale Offers New Season

Award-winning Susquehanna Chorale, resident chamber choir of Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts and a nationally recognized leader in the choral art, offers a 2009-2010 season featuring the chorale's regular subscription concerts in November, December and May, and a performance of Haydn's Creation with the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra in November. Email the Susquehanna Chorale office at sc@susquehannachorale.org or call 717-533-7859 for more information or to schedule an audition.

Led by Artistic Director, Founder and Conductor Linda L. Tedford, the Susquehanna Chorale was the first volunteer choir to receive the prestigious national "Margaret Hillis Achievement Award for Choral Excellence."

The acclaimed 36-member choir has produced four CDs, two of which have been considered for Grammy nomination, and performed with the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, for the American Choral Directors Association Eastern Division Conventions, at the National Cathedral and at the Leonard Stanley Music Festival in England.

The Chorale is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts, a regional arts funding partnership of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, administered by Jump Street; The Cultural Enrichment Fund; The Charles A. and Elizabeth Guy Holmes Foundation; The Kline Foundation; The Franklin H. and Ruth L. Wells Foundation; and three funds administered through the Foundation for Enhancing Communities: The Bill and Beverlee Lehr Fund, The Marian M. Warden Fund, and The Randolf H. and Virginia P. Aires Fund.

Well my little homo darlings, Sophonda has been busy.

While on the prowl in dark corners of bars frequented by the denizens of the night (after all, they only come out at night), I've overheard secrets so deep only the dungeon master has the key. And if you're nice to me the next time we meet, and buy me lots of exotic martinis, I'll give you his cell phone number.

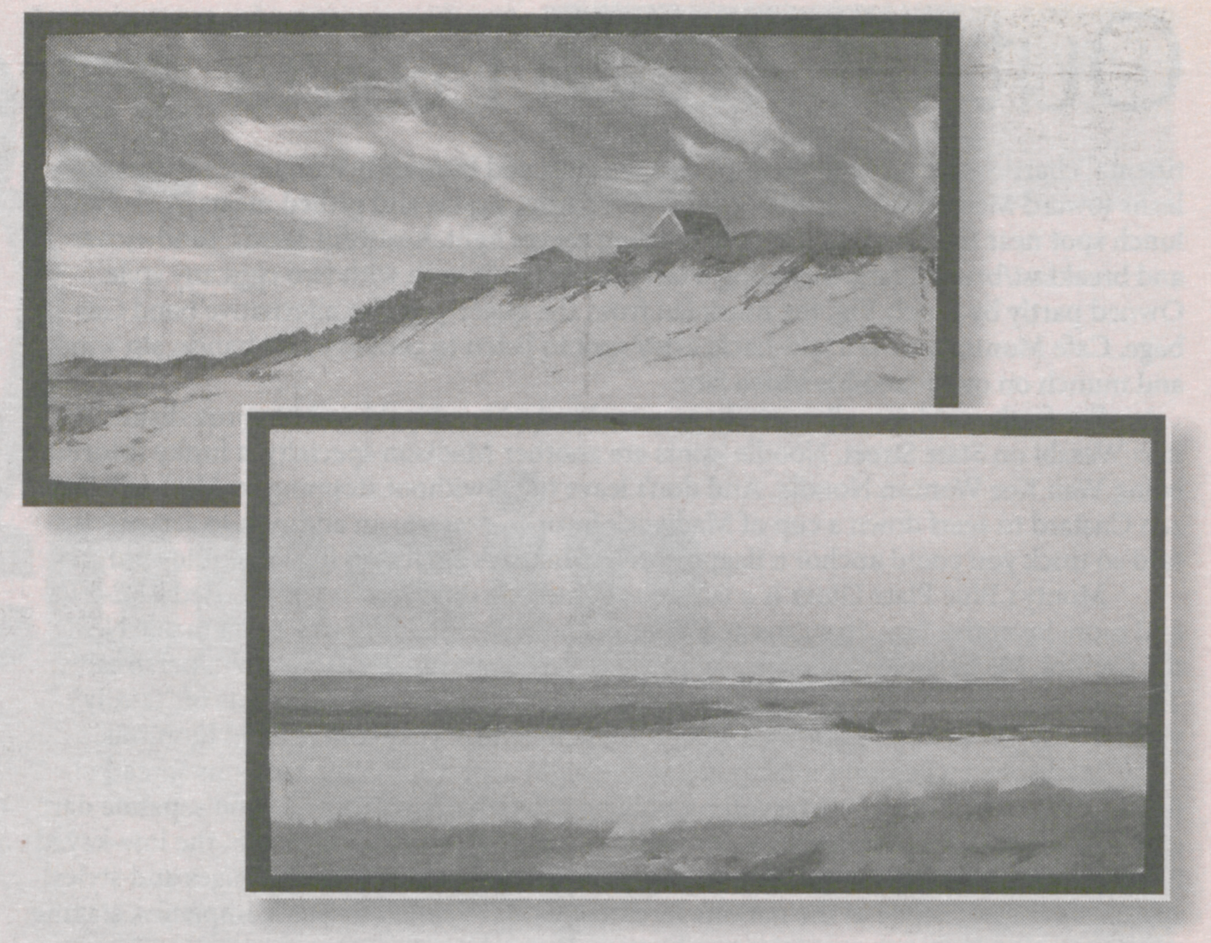
What a delicious time we all had at the Pride Dine Out! As we sat there surrounded by the region's most handsome men, a waiter who would make a nun drool announced to a swarthy hunk "Your pork will be up soon." I knew I was in the right place.

Another good place to be any moment is a library or a bookstore. All those books! Confession: I'm the only homosexual I know of my age and peerage who has not read Marcel Proust. There it was on the shelf of a local bookstore – Proust for Idiots & Flighty Queers. It's a lipsink version of all the "good" parts! The pages are full of costume suggestions, the works.

With "diversity" coming up roses everywhere, I thought I'd share a photo of something I encountered at a local grocery store. Rushing out for a pint of milk called for in one of those impossible gay recipes, I approached the tall refrigerator door in a grocery. And there it was "Homo Pint" on the little sign beneath the milk. Gives a whole new meaning to "Got Milk," huh? We learned all about this kind of stuff in cultural sensitivity class for airheads. "Who you callin' homo Pint?" was my first thought. Then it was "Who you callin' pint Homo?" Well, the real point is we should all calm down a bit and not be so quick to play the PC Card. It doesn't trump everything you know. Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar and sometimes things are just plain funny. This was one of those times.

What's the worse thing you can do to a drag queen and Rev. Phelps? Ignore them! And that's just what the "One Human Family" city of Key West did when his group threatened to appear there. Actually, (See your voice p. 5) the local high school Straight/Gay Alliance turned the day into a fundraiser. It really does take a gang of homos to be that creative, now doesn't it?
When the Phelps family appeared in Harrisburg a few years back, and 800 people gathered to show their disapproval by making a human ring around the Pennsylvania State Museum, I will never forget what I saw Phelps family members instruct children to do. They had the kids put the American flag on the street and stomp on it in front of gay Vietnam Veterans nearby. They wanted to taunt them. So much for honoring family values.

Now, Oprah darling. I have a diet suggestion for you. There's something I want you to stay away from – talking about yourself! I promise you will lose weight if you keep your mouth shut. Less air gets in, less air gets out. Global warming will cool down. You have a dress in every size imaginable, what more could a girl want? Yes, you've performed amazing feats of philanthropy but that doesn't mean you can be a 24/7 "Me-Me-Me A-hole". *Tootles darlings!*



Oil Paintings of Cape Cod

by Jo Brown

ARTS at 510 Exhibit On Through July 31

Arts at 510 offers through July 31 the exhibit "Favorite Vacation Spots/Wish You Were Here!" featuring a wide array of artists and their works in oils, watercolors, pastels, mixed media and photographs. Scenes of popular destinations range from local and not so local Pennsylvania, to the east coast of the U.S.

With scenes of Cape Cod, Cape May, Eagles Mere, Gettysburg, Harrisburg, Key West, Maryland Eastern Shore, Outer Banks, Poconos, Skyline Drive, and Stone Harbor, this is your chance to travel without going anywhere. One could say this is the perfect travelogue to guide you to your next destination.

In addition, Arts at 510 invites attendees to share their favorite vacation story to win an artistic rendering of the winner's favorite destination spot. The winners will be notified by phone if not present during the naming of the winner.

Artists include Earl Blust, Jo Brown, Scott Campbell, Paul Emberger, Jonathan Frazier, Thom Glace, Dan Kim, Michael Mariano, Roger Shipley, Beverly Spitzer, and Linda Young.

ARTS at 510, located at 510 North Third Street, Harrisburg, is open Tues. through Fri., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sat., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with extended hours for artist receptions. Contact: 717.724.0364; www.artsat510.com.

Zephyr Express Adds New Menu Selections

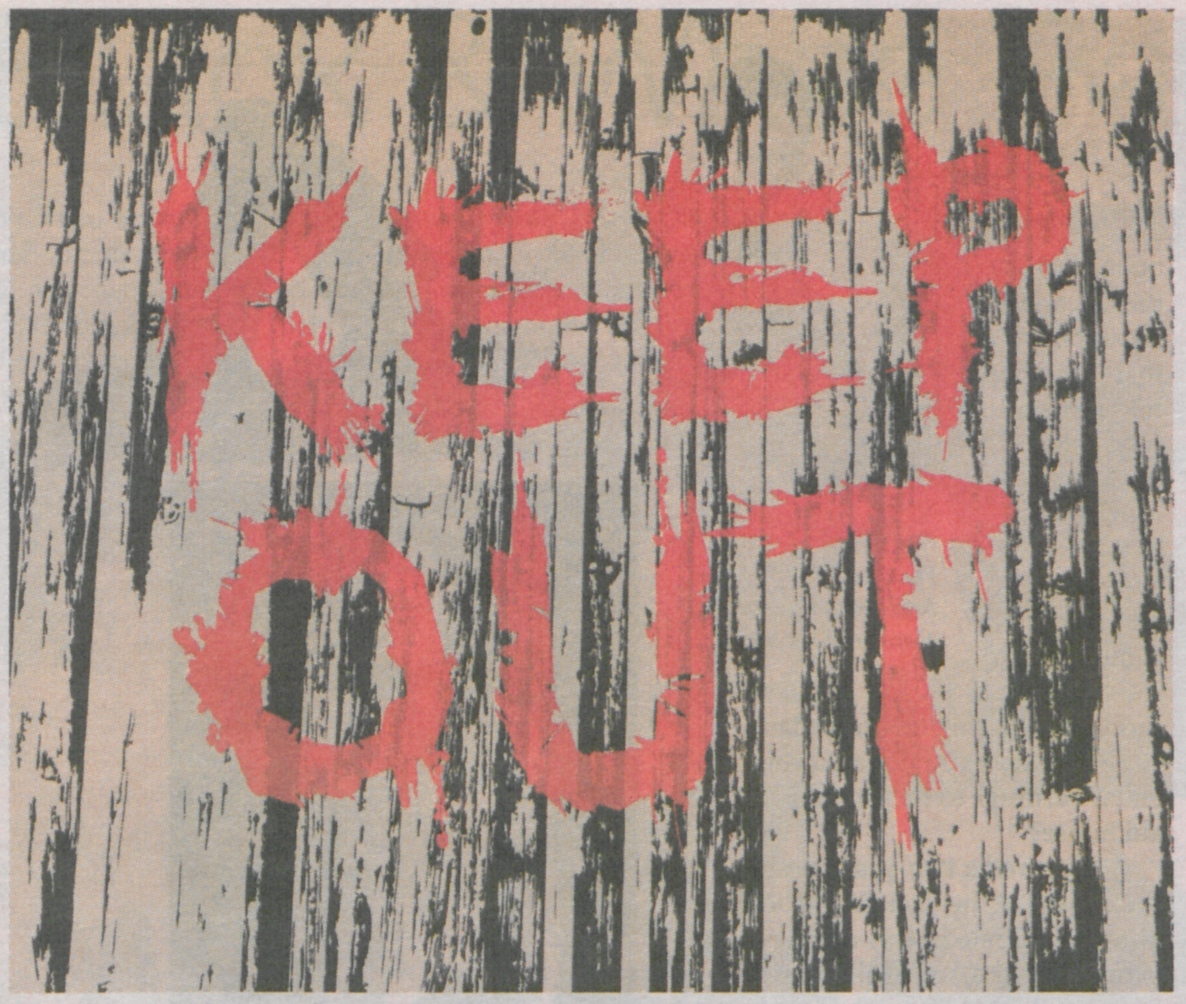
Known as The Best Little Restaurant in Harrisburg, Zephyr Express, 231 North St., has added some tasty new menu items to an already delicious selection.

Just Tortillas & Salsa is a new appetizer. Under salads is Taco Salad, their award-winning chili over a bed of lettuce and cheddar, onions, tomatoes, tortillas, and a dollop of sour cream.

Three new sandwiches adorn the menu. Crab Cake is an oversized smoked gouda cake on pretzel bread, sided with remoulade. Chicken Parmesan Wrap is chicken, mushrooms, red peppers, onions sautéed with marinara sauce, topped with provolone. Blackened Steak Wrap is sautéed beef tips tossed with cheddar, onions, tomatoes, lettuce with a southwest cream sauce.

For dinner, you have Creole Shrimp & Sausage Fettucine, Andouille sausage and shrimp mixed with spring onions and tomatoes, tossed with pasta in bayou spiced mustard sauce.

Spring Shrimp is sautéed plump shrimp in garlic butter and lemon juice tossed with angel hair, capers, fresh baby spinach. Tequila Tortilla Chicken Fettucine is a nacho crusted bread that's baked then put atop pasta mixed with green peppers, onions, tomatoes, sweet corn in spicy Quervo cream sauce. New Ravioli dishes include sausage and onion, and shrimp scampi. Sweet Citrus Chicken is a pan-seared breast covered in pineapple, lemon, and orange glaze. 233-2009



"We're allowing them to exist" Sen. Eichelberger Says

In a WHYY/91 FM radio debate June 19 with PA Democratic Sen. Daylin Leach, PA Republican Sen. John Eichelberger said in regard to the state's lgbt taxpayers: "They're not being punished. We're allowing them to exist, and do what every American can do. We're just not rewarding them with any special designation."

Pennsylvania will soon entertain two opposing pieces of legislation on same-sex marriage. Leach's measure permits same-sex marriages by state residents and also would recognize such marriages that were done in other states. His bill would not require churches or other religious institutions to perform same-sex marriages if the ceremony violates religious beliefs.

Eichelberger, expected to introduce Senate Bill 707, aimed at reinforcing Pennsylvania's current law through a constitutional amendment that defines marriage as only between one man and one woman. The law bans same-sex marriage and polygamy. His measure would have to be approved in two separate legislative sessions and then approved in a statewide referendum, talking his step in May 2011.

Provided by Keystone Progress, here's a partial transcript of Eichelberger's remarks. Times are approximate. Entire debate at http://www.whyy.org/91FM/radiotimes.html

21:15 Leach: How would he [Eichelberger] want to encourage stability in gay couples?

Eichelberger: I wouldn't. I mean they can practice whatever sexual activity they like to practice, but there's no reason to give them special consideration. We don't give them special consideration in Pennsylvania for any reason. Why in the world would we allow them to marry?

22:05 Leach: How would he want to encourage stability in gay couples?

Eichelberger: There is no reason to encourage that type of behavior in Pennsylvania.

24:20 Eichelberger: That comes back to the definition of family and that's where we differ. We can call all kinds of things families. I mean, we can say a 3 party marriage is a family, or 7 or 8 people or marrying younger and younger children these days .

25:00 Host: Are you saying that by their very nature homosexual relationships are dysfunctional?

Eichelberger: [Pause] Ummmm. I guess I would say that. I would say that.

38:50 Eichelberger: This changes the definition of marriage, allowing same-sex, and then like I said, 5-10 years from now it'll be polygamy, marrying younger people, it'll be whatever…It won't be a 6 year old, it'll be a 15 year old, then it'll be a 14 year old, then it'll be a 13 year old.

49:40 Leach: Should our only policy towards [same-sex] couples be one of punishment, to somehow prove that they've done something wrong?

Eichelberger: They're not being punished. We're allowing them to exist, and do what every American can do. We're just not rewarding them with any special designation.

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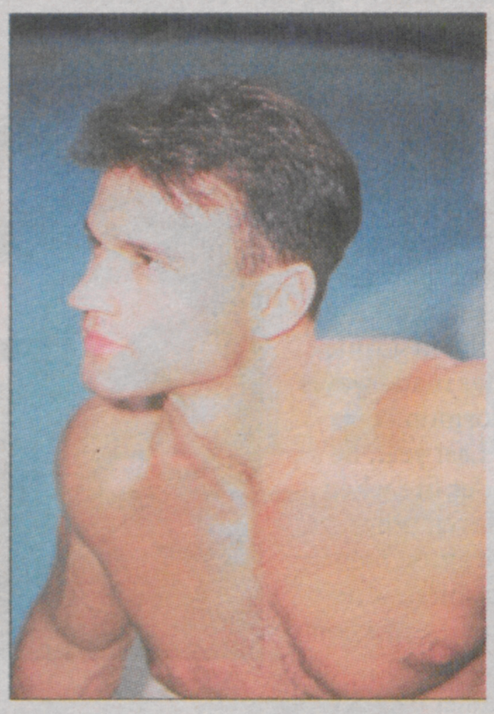

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RESORT INN AND PLAYHOUSE
'On the Yellow Breeches'

Morman Cover Model

Michael Walker

Photo credit: BrianDalthorp courtesy of Mormons Exposed™

By Nathan Chea, ManhuntDaily.com

Thousands of gay men pray daily to the Manhunt Gods for a heavenly gift, but Michael Walker has taken his worshipping to a whole new level. The former Mormon is Manhunt's newest cover model.

Is this another case of good boy gone wild? Perhaps. But this isn't the first time Walker has made waves in the Mormon community. Last year, he came under fire when he and eleven other young Mormon men appeared shirtless in the "Men on a Mission" calendar.

Walker escaped discipline then, but will he be as lucky this time around – especially considering he is now plastered all over the world's leading gay website? We chatted with the rebel Mormon to learn why he did it and the repercussions he expects to encounter as the new face of Manhunt.

First, tell us about the "Men on a Mission" calendar.

It started out as sort of a joke, but Chad (the creator of the calendar) and his team were very professional and it is truly something that I'm proud I was a part of.

Why Mr. December?

I wondered the same thing. Chad told me that my picture seemed like the perfect bookend to the other pictures. I can't complain. Mr. December's a good spot.

Did you run into any trouble with the Mormon Church as a result of your involvement with the calendar?

I was called by my Stake President (a local leader of the congregation in L.A.) but I never returned his call. I've heard that some of the other models in the calendar have had interviews regarding their involvement, but none have been ex-communicated, as far as I know.

The creator of the calendar, Chad Hardy, was ex-communicated from the church.

My heart goes out to Chad. Not only was Chad excommunicated, but they decided to strip him of his degree from Brigham Young University. They claim that they excommunicated him because of reasons outside of the calendar; something that Chad has told me is a bold-faced lie. It's sad to me that all of this would happen to him over something so ridiculously innocent as a shirtless calendar.

Is it true you donated your calendar earnings to the Ronald McDonald house?

I served a two-year mission for the church at the Ronald McDonald house in Buffalo. It was an incredible experience and I'm thrilled I was able to support them through this project.

To say the gay community and the Mormon Church haven't been getting along lately is an understatement. What are your feelings on the recent rift and on Proposition 8?

This one's tough for me. Growing up Mormon and gay has to be one of the most difficult social and spiritual conundrums anyone can be subjected to. I was deeply disturbed and saddened by the churches support of Proposition 8. Their usual non-involvement in politics rule was abandoned for a sickly impressive campaign that ended in the taking of basic fundamental rights

continued from page 30

PRIDE MEGA DANCE PARTY

SATURDAY, JULY 25

8 PM-2 AM with DJ Barry B

Bar Opens 6 pm

Voted Best Alternative Bar 8 Years in a row by Harrisburg Magazine

See Us At The PrideFest & PrideFest Parade

Stallions would like to thank everyone who made our 24th Anniversary weeklong celebration a great success. We hope we can serve you for another 24 years. It was a blast and a lot of fun for us as well as most of you. Check out all the new pictures that we added on our Web site. There you will find pictures from our Male Revue Night to pictures of a Foam Party. Enjoy! Thanks Again!

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www.stallionsclub.com

Black & White Party Over the Top!

With two big top tents this year, dozens of costumed characters, and outside stage show, a Silent Auction, floral arrangements like no others, restaurants from all over - and Sandra Bernhard inside - 2009 Black & White Party was again the region's best party. The event supports Caring Together and The AIDS Fund of South Central PA.

YORK LITTLE THEATRE

Central Voice readers receive $5 off the musical "TOMMY" ticket price. Use coupon code "voice."

Mainstage

THE WHO'S TOMMY

A Musical by Pete Townshend and Des McAnuff

Special Event

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Cultural Alliance of York County

PINE-ING FOR SUMMER

Take Recess from the Recession

By George Shapiro

The Fire Island philosophy is simple. You wake up and fry on the beach all day, with the occasional cruise up and down the beach to scope out the cuties. In the evening, you get glammed up and go to tea—which is a fun dance party.

The music starts at 5pm, and on weekends, it doesn't stop until 5am the next day. There's low tea, high tea, middle tea, an underwear party, and a nightclub called Pavilion, where big name DJs like Brett Henrichsen and Junior Vasquez play.

But Fire Island Pines is more than a party. There are fabulous restaurants, a gourmet market, Starbucks, cute shops, and a gym. Plus, the beaches are beautiful. And there are no cars allowed on the island—so you really feel like you are in a gay paradise.

Adam Weaver, who heads the activities on the island, tells us about summer '09:

Why is 2009 the summer to experience the Pines?

Flights are cheap this year, so we're gearing for more boys than ever.

How are you preparing for the extra guests?

We've expanded the high tea room to fit more guys. We've also perfected our DJ roster to include all the favorites as well as some hot, new talent. I've been scouting the bars ofNYC for the best, new nightclub performers, and I'm counting on a few big name acts to make it to the Pines too.

Can you give us some of the artists already confirmed?

I'm really excited about the Perry Twins over Ascension weekend. It will be their Fire Island debut! And of course, Joe Gauthreaux at Bay Dance and Tony Moran at Ascension are going to be fierce. I'm so psyched for the holiday weekend line-ups, but really, we've got great talent coming out every night of summer.

When visiting the Pines, what should men include on their itinerary?

Low Tea is a great place to have drinks and dance with your friends. High Tea follows at 8pm, where the dance party gets a little more wild and crazy. On weekends, there are live performances at Blue Whale Restaurant, which is a great place to have dinner or to just hang out at the bar to see the show. Oh, and if you're here on a Friday, you can't miss the underwear party. It's really hot!

What would you advise all gay men pack in their bag for a fun-filled weekend in the Pines?

If you are coming for a day trip, all you need is a towel, sunscreen, sunglasses, and some drinking money. For a longer trip, make sure you bring plenty of cute swimsuits. The daytime look in the Pines is a speedo and designer shades. At night, make sure you have sexy jeans and you may want to pack a hoody for chilly nights.

What does the Pines offer singles that other gay destinations do not?

P-Town is a great place to relax, and Atlantis is a great place to go wild. At the Pines, you get the best of both. You can chill on the beach and hang out with your friends at your beach house. Or you can go downtown, where there's a party every night. Fire Island is what you make it.

Where is the best place to meet cute guys?

It's really fun to check out guys on the beach all day, pick your favorites, and then make your move at low tea. You will find yourself meeting so many cool people every night of your vacation. Guys just seem to be more relaxed here. I'm not going to mention the "meat rack;" you guys have to find out about that on your own.

Is the Pines suitable for a romantic getaway?

The Pines is definitely a romantic place. It's a great place to get away from it all and enjoy the quiet beaches and tranquil nature. You can cook dinners at home or go out to excellent restaurants. And if you are a couple who like's to have fun, we've got plenty of that too.

How can out-of-towners book their Fire Island Pines getaway?

You can find everything from the latest summer entertainment schedule to available houses and hotel rooms at www.thepinesfireisland.com. Holiday weekends in the Pines book early, so it's a good idea to start planning your trip soon.

BAY DANCE takes place July 3-5, featuring DJs Roland Belmares, Junior Vasquez and the Main Event with DJ Joe Gauthreaux. ASCENSION is Aug 14-16, featuring DJs Manny Lehman, Brett Henrichsen, Kimberly S and The Perry Twins, with DJ Tony Moran headlining the beach party. Visit www.thepinesfireisland.com.

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The Places to See and Be Seen At in NYC

By Taylor Dunn

All types are welcome at Fire Island Pines, but if you plan to visit Manhattan while you're in New York, it's best to know your place. Manhattan is too big for just one central gay area. The city has five – each attracting a different subset of gay.

Chelsea – Eighth Avenue between 14th Streets and 23rd Streets is where the muscle boys shop, eat and play. Best eats: Elmo, The Dish, and Cafeteria. Hot stores for tight duds that show off your great body are Barneys Coop, Jeffrey, Universal Gear and Scoop. Hot spots include G Lounge, Barracuda and the mega gay dance club, Splash.

Hells Kitchen – Ninth Avenue between 39th and 57th Streets has recently toppled Chelsea as the prime center for the city's gay community. It is where the young and hip boys live and hang. It's also a great place to land a Broadway chorus boy. Best eats: HK Restaurant (on 39th St), Eatery, Ariba Ariba and Vinyl. Hot stores: Wear Me Out and American Apparel. Hot spots include Therapy Lounge, Vlada, Ritz and the chic haunt, HK Lounge.

East Village – If you prefer the dark, sinful gay scene, you'll want to take the N train down to East 8th Street and troll the rock n' sleaze fag underground. It is where leather daddies and skinny New York University boys intermingle and experiment with everything your mama warned you against. Best eats: Butter Lane, Lucky Chengs. Hot stores: stroll the booths on St Mark's Place. Hot spots include: The Cock, Boiler Room, and EasternBloc.

West Village – What used to be the main hub for the gay community is now a straight chick tourist trap for Sex in the City wanna-be looking to drop serious cash at the slew of high end retail shops that have taken over the neighborhood. Christopher Street is still a fun place to visit, if only to get a taste of gay history. Best eats: Manatus and Lips. Hot stores: Marc Jacobs, Juicy Couture, and Ralph Lauren. Hot spots for white-hairs are Boots & Saddle, The Monster, and Stonewall Inn.

Upper East Side – If you're over 50, looking to land a boy under 20 – or if you prefer the Asian persuasion - you'll want to head over to Manhattan's Upper East Side. It's where the sugardaddy's meet their boy toys. Best eats: Baluchi's and La Mediterranee. Hot stores: Bloomingdales and Diesel. Hot spots include The Townhouse, and the Asian club, The Web.

Want to experience a little culture while you're in the NYC? Be sure to check out exhibits at the MoMa (Museum of Modern Art), The Frick and The Museum of Sex (a jaw dropping experience!). The Duplex in Sheridan Square is a fun place for comedy. Don't Tell Mama in Hell's Kitchen is the best joint for cabaret and fans of dance should plan to catch a performance at City Center. To learn more about what gay NYC has to offer, visit www.nyctrip.com.

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The Music Theatre Workshop has been designated a "Regional Summer School of Excellence" for the sixth consecutive year by the PA Department of Education. The program is one of fifteen summer programs to be so named by the state. The Workshop's faculty is comprised of professional teacher/performers.

Anne L. Alsedek, Program Director and acting teacher, is the founder and director of the Open Stage Studio/School. An actor as well, she has appeared in numerous productions at Open Stage and at other professional theatres. She is also Program Director of the Capital Area School for the Arts, and was Chair of the Theater Department at the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts for three years.

Carolyn Dorff, the program's Musical Director, holds a Master's degree in Opera Performance from North Carolina School for the Arts. Ms. Dorff recently moved to the Harrisburg area from Raleigh , North Carolina , and is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. She has been teaching voice and music theatre for Open Stage since 2007. Ms. Dorff has performed extensively across the United States , most notably as Lily in the second national Broadway tour of "The Secret Garden".

Her resume includes a wide variety of credits from opera, musical theatre, oratorio, symphonic work, recitals, folk and children's music, acting, and dance. She also teaches voice privately and is the founder and director of Power Performance, Inc. Mark D. Lingenfelter, dance teacher and choreographer, is a graduate of Catawba College in Salisbury , North Carolina , where he received a BA in Music Theatre. A professional actor, teacher, and choreographer, Lingenfelter has worked at For a Good Time Theatre in Saginaw , MI , and choreographed for Susquehanna University , where he also taught dance and acting. He has performed across the country in various roles from the Sea Witch in "The Little Mermaid" to Bob Cratchit in "A Christmas Carol". Both he and Carolyn Dorff are returning to MTW for a second year.

For more information, or to receive an audition packet, call the Open Stage Education Department at 214-3250, e-mail a request to education@openstagehbg.com, or visit the theatre's website. Open Stage is located in the street level of the Walnut Street Parking Garage in downtown Harrisburg.

Hershey Theatre 1 of Top 50 Theatres

Hershey Theatre has done it again. The first quarter rankings are in from the entertainment trade publication Pollstar and The M. S. Hershey Foundation and Hershey Entertainment & Resorts announce that the beautiful Hershey Theatre has again made it to the list of the world's top theaters.

In Pollstar's previous ranking, the hidden gem of Hershey – the 75-year old Hershey Theatre – registered as No. 51 among theaters around the world, including sites in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Ireland, Mexico, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the United States.

The new rankings show Hershey Theatre has made a tremendous jump and is now ranked at No. 28. Pollstar's rankings include theaters from Australia, Canada, Ireland, Mexico, the Netherlands, and various theaters throughout the United States including Radio City Music Hall in New York City and the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles.

"We are so proud of this great accomplishment and to be recognized as global leaders," said Marta Howell, Executive Director of The M.S. Hershey Foundation. "The historic Hershey Theatre is a true gem and we are very proud to offer a variety of entertainment that appeal to our guests."

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Art Association of Harrisburg Soirees and Exhibit

The Art Association of Harrisburg offers Soirees and their popular student exhibit.

"Summer Soirees" with "Midsummer Madness" at Milestone Inn in Uptown Harrisburg is June 27, 5- 8 p.m. Hosted by AAH Patrons Bob and Tracey Meloni, the Soiree will feature luscious hors d'ouevres catered by Stock's on Second and artwork reflecting the beautiful Susquehanna River.

Featured artists will include photographer Eric Olson, and painters Susan Benigni-Landis, Kathy Busillo, and Carrie Wissler-Thomas. The artwork will be displayed on the grounds of Milestone Inn with the hors d'ouevres served in the tented courtyard.

The next Soiree in the series will be hosted by Bill Wollyung at his home in Camp Hill July 11, 5 – 8 p.m. "Summer Cool by the Pool" showcases photographs by Jeff Wiles, and plein air landscapes by Steve Wetzel and Jonathan Frazier. JDK will cater the event, with the artwork displayed by Wollyung's attractive pool as well as on the walls of his home.

Top: Bill Wollyung home; bottom: Milestone Inn

Last of the Soirees is "Doldrums Stimulus Package" at the home of Jay and Sandee Delozier in Lemoyne August 22, 5-8 p.m. Painters Janette Toth, Diane Delozier and John McNulty will be the artists for this event, guaranteed to provide stimulating enjoyment at the end of the summer! Hors d'ouevres and summer beverages will round out the evening.

Reservations for all Soirees are $35 per person in advance, and $40 at the door. Call the Art Association of Harrisburg at 717-236-1432 to make reservations. Directions to the Soiree locations will be provided to those who make reservations in advance. The Soirees benefit the Art Association's cultural programs.

The Association celebrates students and faculty in their "Art School Annual Exhibit" that opens with a gala reception and awards ceremony on June 26, 5- 8 p.m. Hosted by Board Members Rich Gribble and Martha Brown, the reception features jazz by Barrie Spessler and Jimmy Wood, with light refreshments. Capital Blue Cross is the show's Corporate Sponsor.

The exhibition will include works in all styles and media, representing the varied art classes offered by The Art Association for children and adults in four semesters annually. Prize juror for the exhibition is Robert Stadnycki, Executive Director of the Greater Harrisburg Arts Council and recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Service to the Arts Award.

Prize monies for the Art School Annual have been contributed by Members First, Rosewein Realty, Alan Hostetler Insurance, Artworks, Sutliff Saturn, CD Warehouse, and Norma Gotwalt.

The exhibition will extend through July 23 at the AAH galleries at 21 North Front Street, Harrisburg. Gallery hours after the opening reception will be 9:30 AM to 9 PM Monday through Thursday, 9:30 to 4 on Fridays, 10 to 4 Saturdays, and 2 to 5 on Sundays.

Call 717-236-1432 for more information. Visit www.artassocofhbg.com to view the Summer Semester art classes to begin the week of July 13.

Mormon con'td

for me and my friends.

How has their position affected your relationship with the church?

It forced me to call into question everything about the institution I was raised a member of. While I respect the Mormon church for instilling the values I carry with me today, the passing of Proposition 8 has caused me to lose my affinity for the church and left me feeling almost like I've lost a good friend or family member. It was the final straw that caused me to finally say "you're not Mormon any more."

You've left the Mormon church?

I had to. But that being said, I hope that people understand that there are many, many good and decent members of the Mormon church that understand our struggle and support us in every way.

How did you become the face of Manhunt?

I have been an on-and-off member of Manhunt since I came out, about a year after my mission. They asked and I said yes.

Had you done any modeling prior to the Manhunt shoot?

I was signed with Wilhelmina Models for about ten years, so I'd done random projects here and there.

How was the photo-shoot?

The shoot was very professional and relaxed. When I first arrived, I was adamant about not doing any shots in my underwear, but somehow they soon convinced me otherwise (laughs). Everyone was really nice and did what they could to make me feel comfortable.

All our readers are dying to know… are you single?

Yes. Single. My profile on Manhunt is a little different than a lot of the others you'll find on the site, since I am primarily relationship-oriented. I'm a serial dater, but haven't found him yet.

Being the new face of Manhunt definitely raises your exposure.

That's a good. I think.

To read more with Michael Walker, go to www.ManhuntDaily.com

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Whitaker Center Announces New Hours

Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts has announced new hours of operation. Harsco Science Center will change to Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Harsco Science Center, including THE BOX and Wonders The Arts & Science Store, will be closed on Mondays; however they will open for select school holidays. Starbucks will remain open on Mondays.

Select Medical IMAX® Theater and Sunoco Performance Theater will continue to operate on Mondays when films or performances are scheduled. Tickets for Monday IMAX® films may be purchased in the Select Medical IMAX® lobby. Please visit whitakercenter.org or call 717/214-ARTS for up to date show times and hours.

2009 PRIDE FESTIVAL OF CENTRAL PA

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Pride Shabbat – A Celebration of "Your Rights, Our Rights, Human Rights," Fri., July 17, 7:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Temple Beth Shalom, 913 Allendale Rd, Mechanicsburg, PA. An inclusive Shabbat celebration open to everybody. Celebrate all models of families, unity and tolerance with music and prayers. Light refreshments will be served. More information at www.tbshalom.org.

CORRECTION:
On pages 6 and 10 in the Central Voice Pride Guide, the dates listed were incorrect. The parade and PrideFest are to be held Saturday, July 25. Our apologies for any inconvenience.

"STONEWALL Vets Symposium," 12 noon to 4pm. Hear first hand from Stonewall Rebellion Veterans what the event that sparked the gay rights movement was like. Sponsored by Pride Festival of Central PA & Capital Region Stonewall Democrats at Temple University Harrisburg, 234 Strawberry Square, Harrisburg, PA. Presented by: Members of the Stonewall Veterans' Association and representatives of Lebanon Valley College. In commemoration the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion the Stonewall Vets will be giving a special presentation concerning the historic event.

Expanded Family Zone at the 2009 Pride Festival of Central PA - Families attending the festival will enjoy family friendly activities in an area dedicated to the young and young-at-heart. Bring your family and try out tie dyeing tee shirts, finger painting, fan painting, scavenger hunting, traditional picnic games, or just be entertained by our friendly clowns.

New to the Festival this year is a "Dance Tent" sponsored by Club XS and additional entertainers at the Second Stage.

Going Gaga con't'd

cessful the project gets. I think sometimes artists, as they begin to fill bigger and bigger venues, they forget where they came from. I'll never do that."

She grew up in New York, where she was raised as a good Italian who'd sing along on her mini-plastic tape recorder to Michael Jackson and Cyndi Lauper. She learned piano by ear at 4. At 13 she wrote her first piano ballad. A year later came open mic nights. Gays just wanted to squeeze her, and while enrolled in acting and dance classes, she buddied up with many of them: "I was always surrounded by gay men and women."

Then, at 20, she was signed to Interscope Records, writing songs – she recently compared doing so to barebacking in Blender Magazine – for the Pussycat Dolls before her almost-gold-certified debut, _The Fame_, was released last year.

Now she's got Ellen DeGeneres dancing to her music.

"You know she's seen my boobs?" Gaga nonchalantly says. "When I was sound checking to do the performance on her show, I had on a blazer with no bra and my dancers hoisted me into a lift for the second verse; my boobs popped out. I was so embarrassed. And she was laughing."

We've all seen bits and pieces – enough to make her chest a puzzle, pretty much. But in her just-released "LoveGame" video – "very gay," she calls it – she does more than show off her assets. She has a lezzy lip-lock. And unlike Katy Perry, it didn't take no cherry ChapStick to get her there: "It's not a secret," she laughs. "I've kissed many girls."

To show her lesbian love, she'll perform at gay-getaway Dinah Shores Weekend during her first 23-date headlining tour, "Fame Ball." "It's going to be really gay," insists Gaga, who's opened up for the Pussycat Dolls and New Kids on the Block. "Everything that I do is very gay. And I say that with immense pride."

Gay, and sweat-stimulating hot. And her parents are cool with it – her mom is more interested in her artistry (those shoes! that hair!) than some girl-on-girl action – much to the surprise of drama-digging journalists who ask this question as if what Gaga's doing is sinful. For a former Catholic schoolgirl, maybe – but, hey, it worked for Madonna and Britney.

"My rebellion is rooted much deeper in my heart than my Catholic school upbringing," she says, lacing the rebuttal with a sarcastic laugh. "In another way, I don't really look at what I'm doing as rebellion as much as it is – it's freeing and it's liberating. It's just me, if that makes any sense. It's just where I feel comfortable."

Much like Sundays, when the Italian (born Stefani Joanne Germanotta) sometimes eats macaroni with her parents. Before selecting other native dishes she digs, she laughs for a few seconds, noting that her roomy and friend is laughing at her because, "She knows I'm biting my tongue to say something terribly, terribly sexual."

And then she feeds us her faves – so difficult, she says – naming fresh gravy, meatballs and sausage: "A good Italian girl loves sausage."

Bad girls, too.

Freedom Rings con't'd

societal beliefs.

"The entire idea is unity. Eventually there will hopefully be no need for a group like Freedom Rings because sexuality will no longer be a controversial issue. It will just be part of who you are," Garrison says. Allies are considered to be such an integral part of the group that they have added a new officer this year, referred to as Ally Advocate, to solely handle the ally component of the group.

Freshman and vice president Andrew Texter views the group as a safe and accepting place to express his opinions, but he said that he has never felt unsafe at LVC because of his sexuality. "It was astounding how safe I felt from day one here. The college is very clearly pro-diversity, and I knew violence and homophobia would not be tolerated," he says. Texter added that the Multicultural Affairs department also adds to his comfort level and provides a supportive atmosphere for diversity.

Garrison and Busteed, however, pointed out some issues that group members occasionally face on campus including protestors at group-sponsored events, harassment based on sexual orientation, and a lack of diversity on campus. "Another issue is sometimes roommate problems. I've been lucky to have roommates that I could be me around, but not everyone has been so lucky," Busteed said.

Busteed also says that education of lgbt rights is limited due to a lack of time students have to devote to issues other than coursework despite the fact that there are several opportunities for education available. Texter added that the biggest problem he faces is the limited dating pool on campus.

Straight allies of Freedom Rings often do not escape the issues that their lgbt counterparts face on a daily basis. Most of the straight members of the group have at some point been mistakenly labeled as a homosexual due to their involvement with the group. "Many are more bothered by the fact that it should matter to people what their sexuality is. Some have been teased because Freedom Rings is the 'gay group' and have merely responded, 'Yeah, so?'," Garrison says.

Garrison's boyfriend is also a supporter of Freedom Rings and attends the meetings with her. "I myself am a bisexual, and my boyfriend knows this and is fine with it. But he started coming after becoming good friends with our president," she says. Garrison described an incident at the mall where someone assumed her friend was gay and began making derogatory remarks towards him. "My boyfriend was bothered that sexuality should be something that should even matter because Tom is such a nice guy," she said. "He became so involved to show that guys can be friends regardless of their sexuality."

Freedom Rings is open to any student on campus, regardless of sexual orientation, who wants to become involved. The group encourages students to attend their weekly meetings to learn more about their cause. "This year there are more straight allies in the group than lgbt members, which is a positive thing," Busteed said.

The group is not only concerned with creating understanding and tolerance on campus, but they also attempt to create change at the societal level. "Attitudes have definitely improved, but there is still a long way to go yet as far as equal rights and protection in the work force," Busteed says.

Garrison said that society is split on the issue and that, although there will always be people that are against homosexuality, there are more people beginning to accept it. "There certainly has been an improvement in tolerance and support, but mainly there is an improvement of awareness because it used to be something that nobody talked about," she said.

An alliance with the straight community is something that was crucial to both Texter and Busteed when they were choosing a college. Texter said that he was impressed with the support Freedom Rings received on campus and the tolerant atmosphere LVC offered. "I knew I was coming to a supportive place where I would feel safe to be myself," he said.

Freedom Rings is preparing for the upcoming Freedom Week, which includes events focused on recruiting allies and continuing to raise awareness of lgbt issues on campus. Freedom week is scheduled for April 20-25.

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Bullying a Problem in PA Schools

By Frank Pizzoli

LGBT bullying is a pervasive and ill-addressed problem in Pennsylvania public schools, according to a recent study by a national lgbt student-advocacy group.

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network research revealed that homophobia is alive and well in Pennsylvania's education system. "The report underscores, once again, the need for schools to adopt inclusive anti-harassment policies," says Louis Marven, director of administration, LGBT Community Center Coalition, affiliated with The Foundation for Enhancing Communities.

As the House of Representatives debated an expansion of hate crimes legislation, Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) claimed those who say Matthew Shepard was murdered in Wyoming for being gay are perpetrating a "hoax" on the American people.

"I also would like to point out that there was a bill - the hate crimes bill that's called the Matthew Shepard bill is named after a very unfortunate incident that happened where a young man was killed, but we know that that young man was killed in the commitment of a robbery. It wasn't because he was gay. This - the bill was named for him, hate crimes bill was named for him, but it's really a hoax that that continues to be used as an excuse for passing these bills," said Foxx.

The New York Times reported in 1998: "According to the local police and prosecutors, the two men lured Mr. Shepard out of a bar by saying they were gay. Then, the Laramie police say, the pair kidnapped Mr. Shepard, pistol-whipped him with a .357 Magnum, and left him tied to a ranch fence for 18 hours until a passing bicyclist spotted Mr. Shepard, who was unconscious."

"Foxx's complete misunderstanding of Matthew Shepard's death makes it imperative that schools and colleges provide staff training on how to create a safe space in schools for lgbtq students, Marven says. Bullying and harassment threatens a student's right to an education. All staff needs to be committed and trained to making schools safe for lgbtq students, Marven stresses.

"Inside Pennsylvania Schools: The Experiences of LGBT Students" is based on survey responses of 242 Pennsylvania students. Results indicate that about 98 % of the respondents routinely heard the word "gay" used in a negative way. Eighty-three percent said they regularly heard the words "faggot" or "dyke," used in the classroom.

Eighty-eight percent of the respondents reported that they had experienced verbal harassment, in particular name-calling or threats, based on their perceived or actual sexual orientation. Sixty-three percent reported verbal attacks that they thought stemmed from their gender identity or expression.

Physical harassment was reported by 52 %, meaning they were pushed or shoved, with 27 percent reporting they were physically assaulted — punched, kicked or injured with a weapon — because of their sexual orientation, while 36 percent were physically harassed and 18 percent assaulted on account of their gender identity.

Fifty-four percent of students who'd experienced either verbal or physical harassment didn't report such incidents to school staff and, of those who did, only 32 percent said their admissions resulted in effective intervention.

The report also found that the harassment had a negative impact on the students' attendance. About 39 percent of the students had skipped class in the month prior to the survey because they felt unsafe, and 44 percent missed at least one day. Students who were more frequently harassed in the classroom were more than twice as likely to miss school than those who experienced harassment less frequently.

In comparison to the national averages released in last fall's report, Pennsylvania ranked higher in every single category of verbal and physical harassment.

Region's SGAs

High schools and colleges in the region with lgbtq support. **"Bold"** is specifically a Gay-Straight Alliance. Other listings represent a "Diversity Club" or broader-based inclusive clubs.

Cedar Cliff
Carlisle High School
Hershey High School
Lower Dauphin HS
Cedar Crest
Cumberland Valley High School
Mechanicsburg
Central Dauphin East
Dauphin Co. Technical School
Susquehanna
William Penn ACTS
Shippensburg High School
Dover
Susquehannock
Red Land
Northeastern
Red Lion
Spring Grove
York County School of Technology
William Penn SHS
York Suburban
West York
Cocalico
Lampeter-Strasburg
Hempfield
Warwick
Penn Manor
Garden Spot
Solanco
McCaskey East
Lancaster Country Day
Manheim Township

College GSAs:
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Dickinson College
HACC Harrisburg
Penn State York
York College of PA
Central Penn College
Elizabethtown College
Franklin & Marshall College
Gettysburg College
HACC Lancaster
Harrisburg University
Millersville University
Penn State Harrisburg
Shippensburg University

Matthew Shepard

Matthew Shepard: *A Look Back*

How Did it Happen?

Judy Shepard, Matthew Shepard's mother, and Central Voice publisher and editor Frank Pizzoli, when she spoke on diversity to several hundred people at York's Strand Capitol Performing Arts Center.

By Chris Tittel
Key West Correspondent

Rewriting history is a fact of life. That's probably why Father Roger Schmit counseled dramaturges Greg Pierotti and Leigh Fondakowski with these words years ago: "Just deal with what is true. You know what is true. You need to do your best to say it correct."

Schmit, a Catholic priest, had just organized a vigil for Matthew Shepard, the gay college student whose vicious beating and murder on the outskirts of Laramie, Wyo., quickly drew worldwide media outlets as well as the New York-based Tectonic Theater Project to Laramie's doorstep.

Schmit expressed concern that the play that Pierotti, Fondakowski and other TTP members were developing out of the Shepard story not stir up any additional hate or violence.

The priest's remarks were later incorporated into "The Laramie Project," one of the most widely performed theater pieces of our day. The along the social and political spectrum - questioned not only about the possibility that Shepard¹s murder was a hate crime but also about the myriad of sexual, religious, human rights and other issues that labeling it as such raises.

Since Schmit's comment, 20/20's Elizabeth Vargas has interviewed Shepard's convicted killers Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney. She called into question what actually happened. More recently US Rep. Virginia Foxx called Shepard's murder a "hoax".

Henderson and McKinney, the two local men who pistol-whipped outside of Laramie, were arrested and quickly brought to trial. Defense attorneys reportedly discouraged both men from taking the stand and speaking in their own defense. Henderson pleaded guilty, in hopes that the plea would save him from death row. McKinney, who took primary responsibility for the savage attack on Shepard, escaped death row through a plea bargain between his attorneys, prosecutors and Shepard's parents. Henderson and McKinney are each serving two consecutive life sentences for the murder of Matthew Shepard.

One of the terms that McKinney and his lawyers reportedly committed to in the plea agreement was that neither McKinney nor his defense team would ever talk about the events of that fateful night. Presumably, the Shepards wanted to ensure that Mk-Kinney would never have the opportunity to capitalize (in the form of lucrative publishing contracts, movie deals, television specials and the like) on the brutality that was unleashed on their son.

GLAAD debunks 20/20 claims

So, what was Elizabeth Vargas doing interviewing both Henderson and McKinney on ABC's "20/20" in late November? Vargas promised us that we would hear "stunning new information" from "new sources that have come forward for the very first time.

Pictures of Shepard faded in and out of the background.

"It is a story that gripped the nation, but started in a place that is very remote ... "

What followed was an hour-long patchwork of interviews with Henderson and McKinney on their methamphetamine binges, with McKinney's girlfriend on how she lied to the investigating authorities in 1998, with Shepard's friend on his suicidal overtones and with Tom "Doc" O'Connor on revelations that McKinney might be bisexual. All of the less-than-stunning new information was tarted up with grunge music, crusty meth bowls being fired up, photos of a bleary-eyed McKinney, soft portraits of Shepard gazing into a vast nothingness, Vargas "teasers" taking us in and out of commercials "Did you kill Matthew Shepard because he was gay?" ... pause ... fade out ... cut to an air freshener ad and, worst of all, the rather nonsensical title, "The Matthew Shepard Story: Secrets of a Murder," bulleted across the screen.

ABC really outdid itself in the tabloid sensationalism department. Really. Editor and Publisher magazine printed an article previewing the "20/20" episode earlier this month that indicated that gay activists feared the program would "de-gay" Shepard¹s murder. While some viewers were satisfied with McKinney's on-air assertions that he merely intended to rob Shepard and that he was out of his mind on methamphetamine that night, it was disappointing that Vargas didn't ask McKinney why it seemed to be the act of Shepard sliding his hand onto McKinney's thigh that drew the first strike with the pistol.

"Sometimes, when you have that kind of rage going through you," McKinney told Vargas, "there¹s no stopping it."Rage, Aaron? What rage? Over Matthew touching your leg?

Interestingly enough, McKinney said nothing on air about that fateful night that isn¹t already in the play. The TTP sifted excerpts of the transcript of investigating officer Rob Debree's initial interrogation of McKinney in 1998 into "The Laramie Project." The interrogation includes McKinney not only pinpointing Shepard sliding his hand up his leg as the act that set him off, but also confessing that he gets "pretty aggravated" when gays "start coming onto me."

Despite its many shortcomings, the program offered interesting insight into how any attempt to "deal with what is true" and "say it correct" can bring so many wildly different interpretations of one event. Sadly, just about the only thing that we can say is true and correct - even after watching the "20/20" report - is that Matthew Shepard is dead and his killers are behind bars for life.

Chad Graham, who wrote a piece on the "20/20" episode for The Advocate, suggests not only that Vargas return to journalism school but also that ABC apologize to the Shepard family.

I¹m inclined to agree wholeheartedly on both accounts.

Editor's Note: It is well known (except perhaps to 20/20's Elizabeth Vargas) that Harper's magazine in 1999 published an in-depth cover story on Shepard's murder that considered how methamphetamine abuse may have intersected with his killer's homophobia, thus contributing to Shepard's murder.

See Rep. Foxx on hate crimes bill @ *www.thecentralvoice.ning.com*
GLAAD debunks 20/20 claims @ *www.glaad.org/Page.aspx?pid=585*
See Judy Shepard on hate crimes bill @ *www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCPR2Uyak80*

The Ultimate Exclusion: *Why GLBT Couples Need DORs*

By Leo Dunn, Attorney

Imagine spending 30 years in a loving relationship, nursing your partner through their final illness up to the point they are hospitalized for the last few days. Then suddenly, the body disappears, you are not told what is happening, and when you do find out a funeral is being held, you are excluded from even attending. Sadly, this can still happen in Pennsylvania and most other states unless the deceased executed Disposition of Remains (DOR) instructions.

In Pennsylvania, when a person dies their 'next of kin' is legally in charge of the body, all funeral arrangements, and disposition decisions. Next of kin is defined, in precedential order, as spouse, children, parents, siblings, grandparents, or the next closest blood relative. This means her/his mother who hates you takes charge and can not only exclude you as surviving partner, but also arrange matters in ways that your loved one did not wish to occur such as being buried rather than cremated.

Such as result can be avoided by executing a DOR - as a stand alone document or as part of a Living Will, Health Care Directive, or Power of Attorney. A DOR can be very simple as long as it clearly states you do not want your next of kin in charge and does state who is responsible. It can also go into precise detail regarding what you want to occur and is complemented if you have also made pre-arrangements with a funeral home or crematorium.

So when you are finally getting around to having your Will, Powers of Attorney and Living Will prepared, tell your attorney you also need a DOR!

Leo Dunn is an attorney and counselor at law who practices in Harrisburg. He may be contacted at leo@leodunnlaw.com.

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Contact: Michael Reed
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Calls and Emails Can be made Days/ Evenings
Email: mreeddesigns@yahoo.com

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3rd and Bridge St
New Cumberland, PA
Phone: 717.233.3172
Contact: Jim
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
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Harrisburg Ladies Night Out
New Cumberland. Cost: $2.50
PO Box 266
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone: 717.232.8382
Contact: Judy Chambers
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available

HOWL
HOWL hanging out with lesbians. Group of 140 women.
Contact: Gina Bowers-Miller
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: howlofpa@yahoo.com
Website: http://www.homestead.com/howlofpa/index.hmtl
Other web address http://groups.yahoo.com/group/howlofpa/ to join

Lambda Car Club Int'l Central PA Region
Organization of GLBT people who are interested in collectable automobiles
Contact: Robert Miller, President
1721 Logan St.
Harrisburg, PA 17102
PH: 610 496-5651
3623 Green Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone: 717.238.9766
Contact: John Ball
Wheelchair Accessible: no
Hours: Meet monthly at different members houses, call for info
Email: buickbum2@aol.com

Rainbow Pride Rural Project
This project intends to create support for the GLBT community living in rural York, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry Counties. It is funded by the Foundation for Enhancing Communities and housed within Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit located in uptown Harrisburg, Pa.
2973 Jefferson St.
Harrisburg, Pa. 17110-2127
Phone: 717-236-7387
Contact: Kevin E. Burrell
Wheelchair Accessible: Yes
Email: kevinb2004@msn.com

Students Advocating LGBTA Equality
Shippensburg University Cumberland Union Building
Box 89
Shippensburg, Pa 17265
Phone: 717-477-1616
Contact: Travis Eichelberger
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: susale@gmail.com
Website: www.ship.edu/~msa/SALE.htm

Susquehanna Club
Group camping open to LGBT people and their friends.
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: camp@susq.org
Website: www.susq.org

Susquehanna Valley Bears
PO Box 11, Manchester, PA 17345
Contact: John Bowermaster
Wheelchair Accessible: Yes
Email: info@svbears.com
Website: www.svbears.com

The Pennsmen, Inc
The Pennsmen, Inc are Central PA's glbt leather/levi/kink social organization. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 21 with an interest in the lifestyle. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at the Neptune Lounge @ 3:00pm
PO Box 401
HARRISBURG, PA 17108-0401
Phone: 717-232-3785
Contact: Steven James
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Evenings
Email: pennsmen@pennsmen.org
Website: www.pennsmen.org

The Rainbow Bowling League
The Rainbow Bowling League bowls every Thursday at 8:55 p.m. We bowl out of the ABC East Lanes on Eisenhower Blvd in Harrisburg and are considered a "mixed" league: in other words, both men and women are welcome. We would like to invite anyone interested in joining or you have friends that are interested in bowling on Thursday evenings. Call for more details. Openings for individual bowlers, teams and substitutes.
Phone: 763-8444
Contact: Mark or Robert
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Thursday 8:45 P.M.

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Locust Lane Music, P.O. Box 8301
Lancaster, Pa 17604
Phone: 717.872.4512
Contact: Bobbi Carmitchell
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: bobbi@womenscircle.org
Website: www.womenscircle.org

Report Shows Healthcare Lags in Addressing Gay Needs

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization, and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, the nation's largest association of lgbt healthcare professionals, recently released the third annual Healthcare Equality Index (HEI), a national report that sets benchmarks and highlights best practices in healthcare facility policies for lgbt Americans.

The release coincides with the annual observance of National Hospital Week. To view the report, visit: www.hrc.org/HEI.

"While many facilities are leading the way in fairness for lgbt patients and their families, on the whole, the healthcare industry is failing to adequately address the needs of our community," said Human Rights Campaign Foundation President Joe Solmonese. "But tools like the HEI can turn this trend around. By helping to remove barriers and create truly welcoming healthcare environments, we can build a stronger, healthier community."

A key finding in the 2009 report is the dramatic disparity between the number of patient non-discrimination policies inclusive of sexual orientation and those inclusive of gender identity. Less than seven percent of participating facilities protect patients from discrimination based on gender identity, while nearly three-quarters of participants provide these protections based on sexual orientation.This finding is symptomatic of the healthcare discrimination faced by transgender Americans every day, from the explicit denial of healthcare services to insensitive remarks by medical staff.

"Tragically, the importance of protecting transgender patients and their families from healthcare discrimination is made clear to us time and time again when we hear stories of discrimination," said transgender health advocate and HEI Advisory Council Member Dr. Rebecca Allison, a cardiologist practicing in Arizona. "As healthcare providers, we have the responsibility to ensure that all of our patients are given the culturally competent care they need and the respect they deserve. The policies and practices highlighted by the HEI provide a starting point for ensuring transgender competence."

Ten of the 166 participants answered "yes" to each of the survey's main criterion which applied to them, thereby establishing a set of model policies that will serve the entire healthcare industry.

The participation of all facilities is appreciated and seen as indicative of a commitment to furthering healthcare equality for lgbt patients and employees.

"We believe the growing level of participation we're seeing by hospitals and healthcare facilities across the country reflects a genuine interest in the healthcare industry to better understand and address the specific needs of lgbt patients." said Jason Schneider, MD, President of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association. "We're encouraged by this level of participation, and believe that the HEI is moving the healthcare industry toward policies, standards, and training that will ensure equal treatment for the lgbt community."

"We at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston are thrilled to have participated in the HEI survey in 2009, and we vigorously embrace the commitment to inclusion and diversity in healthcare that it embodies," said Dr. Michael Gustafson, BWH's senior vice president for Clinical Excellence. "And while we are proud of our perfect HEI score, we are equally gratified that the process of self-assessment has stimulated significant new quality improvement activity to further bolster our care policies and practices for both lgbt patients and our lgbt staff."

Other key findings of the HEI include:

Visitation Policies. The HEI survey has identified model visitation policies that are explicitly inclusive of the lgbt community. These model policies will set the standard for credit on these questions in the future.

Advance Healthcare Directives. All HEI-participating facilities have compliance policies requiring the honoring of legally-valid advance healthcare directives. Unfortunately, lgbt individuals come forward with tragic stories of hospitals failing to recognize these directives, reflecting a disconnect between the existence of written policies and the actual implementation of these policies on the part of all personnel. Future HEI surveys will focus on staff training related to advance healthcare directives as a means to eliminating this disconnect.

Cultural Competency Training. Seventy-two percent of participating facilities provide cultural competency training addressing sexual orientation and healthcare issues relevant to lesbian, gay and bisexual community. Seventy-one percent of participating facilities provide cultural competency training addressing gender identity and healthcare issues relevant to transgender community.

Employment Non-Discrimination Policies. Ninety-eight percent of the participating facilities bar employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, while only 63 percent of those policies include "gender identity or expression" or "gender identity."

The report is based on responses to an online survey, conducted October through December 2008, addressing patient non-discrimination and visitation policies; cultural competency training; recognition of legal documents between same-sex partners; and the protection of lgbt employees through fair employment policies. The responses in the HEI 2009 report represent the policies of 166 facilities from across the country, including 93 hospitals and 73 clinics. The document is available for download: http://www.hrc.org/issues/12668.htm.

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